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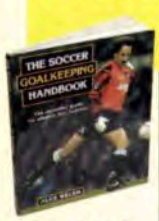

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Art Editor Gary Payne
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Picture Editor Duncan Bond
Online Editor Jamie Rainbow
Database Manager Daniel Fein
Editorial Secretary June Hiscock
Pictures Empics, Allsport, Popperfoto

Thanks this issue to:
David Prole, Mike Hughes, David Rallis

Editorial
King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS
Tel: 00 44 (0) 20 7261 5737
Fax: 00 44 (0) 20 7261 7474
E-mail: world_soccer@ipc.co.uk

Advertising Keamus Setna
Marketing Debbie Marsden
Production Manager Tom Jennings
Managing Director Andy McDuff
Publisher Sean Singleton

Display Ads 00 44 (0) 20 7261 5499
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April 2000

OPINIONS lie at the heart of any successful magazine – and one of the most opinionated people in football is Paul Gardner, our correspondent in the United States, who begins a regular column for us this month.

World Soccer is often accused of giving undue emphasis to European football. We make no apology for this: Europe is where the world's best players gravitate towards to prove themselves in the world's most competitive leagues. But Paul – an Englishman who has lived in New York for most of his life – is the ideal person to stimulate debate and discussion with opinions which, he says, are unashamedly "pro-world" rather than "anti-European".

Read Paul's first column on page 7. We have also made a number of other new signings this month. In the Libero section, you'll see the first contributions from a new rota of guest columnists. Our squad of opinion-formers come from all areas of the game – coaching, playing, reporting – and in the true spirit of modern football will be rotated from month to month.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipc.co.uk)

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Keir Radnedge

COMMENTARY

'2002 World Cup games could kick off at between 10 at night and 5am in the UK'

The right result for common sense

HERE'S bad news for European couch potatoes looking forward to a solid month of live football every evening during the 2002 World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea: FIFA won't be fixing the kick-off times to suit you.

Funnily enough, the one country that will find kick-off times falling beautifully into prime-time evening viewing will be the United States.

The cat has been let out of the bag by Michel D'Hooghe, the Belgian federation president who also heads FIFA's medical committee.

Speaking in Miami on the eve of the Gold Cup, he said: "FIFA's executive committee will now consult medical staff before scheduling kick-off times for World Cup ties. What happened in Orlando and Chicago [with humidity and heat] in 1994 is unacceptable. This is a small victory for medicine against money."

If one accepts that the ideal kick-off time to suit meteorology and the human body clock is somewhere between 2pm and 9pm, then that means between nine at night and four in the morning central European time; or 10 at night and 5am in the UK.

Nobody in Europe has picked up on D'Hooghe's remarks yet. When they do, you can bet on an outcry from European television companies. They will protest that they are paying millions of dollars for the ultimate prime-time net in which to catch the biggest audiences.

That will further fuel the anger within the Kirch group, which bought World Cup TV rights from FIFA. It had already been upset to discover that the Opening Match, semi-finals, third place play-off and Final – plus the home nation's matches in any given country – must all be guaranteed clear for 'free' TV.

Tough. What matters most is that the right result stands: Football 1, Television 0.

Cooling down...playing in USA 94-type conditions should become a thing of the past

Shut up and move back

SHOULD England's Nationwide League be used as the testing ground next season for the 10-yard rule which the International Board is copying from rugby?

Soccer's law-making authority decided to authorise a high-level experiment with the disciplinary measure which has been tested so far only in Jersey, in the lower-level Auto Windscreen Shield in England, and in Brazil. Under the rule, the ball is advanced 10 yards if opposing players show dissent at a free-kick.

The IB stopped short of ratifying the concept into the laws of the game, and ordered that the experiment continue at the next World Youth Cup in 2001 and in "a major English league".

That is unlikely to be the Premiership because of problems for players adjusting to the standard laws in international competition.

In other decisions, the board decided that keepers must release the ball within six seconds rather than after four steps, and that goal-line technology will be tested in England. Also, assistant referees will be allowed to play a more active role in match control, though two-referee experiments will continue.

The IB comprises one representative from each of the four British associations and four from FIFA.

No wonder Kenny's looking worried

CELTIC'S defeat by Inverness Caledonian Thistle in the Scottish Cup has been talked of as the greatest disaster in the club's history, and team manager John Barnes paid the inevitable price. Yet Celtic are second in the table and virtually assured a place in Europe next season.

They were victims of a domestic cup giant-killing but that can befall anyone. No, the biggest error John Barnes committed was being a famous former international...and an English one at that.

Opinions vary. The continental school believes managers need formal training in coaching and sports psychology. Sky TV analyst Andy Gray thinks clubs should heed the warning not to entrust their dreams to a man on the weight of his playing fame.

Johnny Giles, who went through the managerial mill with West Brom and the Republic of Ireland, believes qualifications are a red herring; that management is such a peculiar art, only a man steeped in football's mysteries has a chance of success. He quotes the likes of 'unqualified' Sir Matt Busby, Bill Shankly and Brian Clough as evidence.

Weight of expectation...Kenny Dalglish

A similar debate rages in Spain where three of the four Argentine coaches in place at the season's opening have been sacked.

Carlos Griguol, bounced by Betis, believes fame or foreign lustre raises directors' and fans' expectations unfairly.

The finger of blame then points not so much at the coach as at the directors who appointed him on the wrong grounds, gave him minimal support, were over-impatient, then let him take the blame which was theirs in the first place.

No wonder Kenny Dalglish looks a worried man. After all, he appointed Barnes...and now the weight of expectation is all his. Double trouble.

Twisted logic

WHO'S afraid of Roberto Baggio? Marcello Lippi is reluctant to pick him for Inter, and Dino Zoff doesn't want him for Italy. The man who inspired Italy's World Cup campaigns in 1994 and 1998 apparently is only good enough for bit parts nowadays. Typical of the way soccer plays tricks on logic.

No go, Diego

EVEN the man who discovered cocaine-ridden Diego Maradona has disowned him, it seems. Francisco Cornejo was the scout who signed Maradona as a nine-year-old for his original kids' team, the Little Onions, in the Buenos Aires shanty towns. Now Cornejo says: "All the money in the world couldn't persuade me to get involved with him again."

In memory of Sir Stanley

SIR Stanley Matthews epitomised, for millions of fans around the world, all that is great about English football. The sense of tradition, the sportsmanship (in 33 years he was never booked or sent off) and ultimate achievement. It would be entirely appropriate if the new Wembley stadium were to be named in his honour. His name is entwined with the legend of Wembley and there could be no more fitting lasting monument to his achievement on behalf of the game of football.

Sir Stanley was a football missionary around the world long before anyone at FIFA had dreamed up multi-million-dollar development programmes. He was the first player honoured as the English Football Writers' Footballer of the Year, in 1948, and as European Footballer of the Year, in 1956. He was honoured by the presence of the likes of Alfredo Di Stefano and Ferenc Puskas when he bowed out at a wonderful farewell match in Stoke in 1965.

Sir Stanley remained sharp of eye, wit and memory long after most of his contemporaries had moved on. A player such as him could not exist today. That does nothing to diminish his status as one of the all-time greats of world football.

Changing horses with Fleet Street's finest

Nightmare...Ibrahima Bakayoko

THE cause and image of African football suffered major damage from events in the Ivory Coast after the national team's Nations Cup exit. No wonder the players, when eventually freed from that three-day-long military 'kidnap', were unwilling to commit themselves to playing again for their country.

Marseille forward Ibrahima Bakayoko described the experience as "a living nightmare". Bordeaux midfielder Lassina Diabate said: "The next time I'm picked for the national team, I'll think twice."

But now that players and relatives are safe we can reflect on the hilarious twist back in Europe where events in the Ivory Coast provoked a sudden about-turn in what used to be called Fleet Street on the subject of England's 2006 World Cup bid.

Of course it's unfair that the efforts of South Africa and Morocco should be tarnished by the manic maraudings of a military dictator, but that's football. In the short term, the incident DID benefit both England and Germany, for whom social stability is not an issue.

Most embarrassed by the 'discovery' was that significant section of the London media which has been the most vicious critic of England's bid. *The Mirror*, for example, has long sought to convince its readers that South Africa was such a rock-solid favourite that nobody else need bother turning up. The *Daily Mail* has campaigned solidly for Germany.

Suddenly, reality struck home. The *Mail* found the Ivory Coast incident an ideal excuse for a headline: "Us and them: England and Germany left to slug it out for 2006 after chaos KOs Africa". Football editor Nigel Clarke conceded that "England's intensive lobbying is eating into the heartland of German support around the world, making the July decision too close to call."

The Mirror did not change horses quite so brazenly, but took refuge in a halfway house in which FIFA would choose South Africa as hosts and appoint England as official first reserves. Nonsensical maybe, but good preparation for the day when the paper unveils England as its favourites.

NOTES AND QUOTES

"Instead of a Sunday without the 'moviola' [repeated slow-motion replays on Italian TV of controversial moments of Serie A games] perhaps it would be better to have a Sunday without football."
Inter president Massimo Moratti on the suggestion that slow-motion trial by TV should be scrapped.

"This type of decision would never have happened in Europe. It's a disgrace for our continent."
Nigeria's Sunday Oliseh commenting on Victor Ikpeba's disallowed effort in the penalty shoot-out of the Final of the African Nations Cup against Cameroon.

Escobar killer gets 43 years

THE Colombian Supreme Court has confirmed the 43-year prison sentence on Humberto Munoz Castro, who confessed to the murder of Colombian defender Andres Escobar.

Originally it was reported that the attack in July 1994 was retaliation for Escobar's own goal which ensured that the Colombians were eliminated from USA 94, or was the work of a drugs cartel.

Now authorities maintain that the player was killed during an argument after he had parked his car badly.

Lothar hits the charts

LOTHAR MATTHAUS' record-breaking feats have inspired a record from pop duo The Fanatical Two.

The lyrics to the ditty, entitled 'Rock Me, Matthaus' run something like this: "He is a man of the world, a true hero, does only what he feels like. He is a superstar, a sex symbol and women find him super, super cool. Come and rock me, Matthaus."

Collision course

UEFA boss reveals two sides in disagreement over the fixture calenda

Another day at the office...Gerhard Aigner conducts the draw for Euro 2000

PROGRESS on pulling the international soccer calendar together must be speeded up, according to UEFA general secretary Gerhard Aigner.

He told *World Soccer* in an exclusive interview: "I see very little progress on the integration of the programme we submitted some months ago. It seems, according to media reports, that Michel Platini is working on a different calendar from ours. None of our proposals has been formally tabled yet.

"We learn, again from the media, that FIFA plans a February-November season. But December will be a football-free month – that was embodied in our programme."

Platini was appointed technical adviser to newly-elected FIFA president Sepp Blatter in June 1998, with the task of co-ordinating a unified international calendar.

Gerhard Joseph Aigner, now 55, was born in Regensburg, Germany, joined UEFA in 1969, and was appointed to the key post of chief executive offer in 1989. In earlier years he was an amateur footballer, referee and youth coach.

My meeting with him took place in his first-floor office in UEFA's new state-of-the-art headquarters, estimated to have cost around £18million and appropriately called The House of European Football.

The building is set in picturesque surroundings on the shores of Lake Geneva, directly opposite the snow-tipped peaks of the French Alps shimmering in the distance.

UEFA, with 51 members, is the most powerful voice worldwide in both financial and footballing terms outside FIFA, and has a guaranteed 14 berths in the 32-team World Cup finals.

Aigner, in a wide-ranging interview, confirmed receipt of calendar proposals from a group of 14 leading European clubs which include Real Madrid, Barcelona, Manchester United and Bayern Munich.

"Among the proposals was a call for a halt to all Champions League and UEFA Cup competition games during the Olympics in Sydney from September 15 to October 2," he said.

But he did not see how this could be accommodated in view of the fact that, last October, UEFA had drawn up a detailed calendar for all the next season's fixtures.

"While we welcome suggestions from interested groups, they have vested interests, whereas we have to look at everything from a global aspect," he said. "We have elected officials who are fully competent to do this."

The intention to eliminate friendlies in favour of a new competition has been put on ice for the moment because the harmonisation of the international calendar has taken priority.

Aigner favours a minimum age of 20 as a condition before a transfer certificate is issued, to combat the traffic involving certain European clubs

Exclusive by Ivar von Rulach

in talented but under-age footballers, mainly from developing countries. This also concerned FIFA, because a statute change might be needed.

Aigner does not think the use of electronic technology would help referees decide whether the ball had crossed the goal-line. "Football is a game played by humans and should be controlled by humans," he said.

"Referees might make mistakes because they are human. But this is part of the game. The linesmen could do more, so why not have more of them in a match? "We must use all available human resources fully before toying with electronic devices, which do not always give a 100 per cent fail-safe guarantee."

Aigner set himself on a collision course with FIFA president Blatter, who is assiduously pursuing his wish for professional referees, by categorically questioning the need for them.

"Part-time referees still have to devote some of their time to their training," he said. "Their performances, which are monitored, can be just as good as those of professional referees.

"If a referee does not have another job on which to fall back, what is he going to do when he has to step down on reaching the age of 45, the FIFA international level?"

But he believes two referees have a better chance of controlling a match. One of them always would be close to the action and decisions would look more credible.

"The tests now running in the Italian Cup, for example, are in the wrong place. They should have been concentrated in the top leagues with the top clubs, where the atmosphere and demands are completely different from a cup match," he said.

No radical changes are planned for next season's Champions League and UEFA Cup competitions, despite the criticism that the participants are not always the ruling champions.

"Our aim is to give football lovers the opportunity to see the best clubs playing entertaining football, like last season's Final treat between Manchester United and Bayern Munich."

Aigner did not seem unduly troubled at continuing predictions of a breakaway European League, claiming that clubs going into such a league would be losers in the long run.

He said: "Their supporters will desert them, because the Champions League and the money it will continue to generate for those taking part will be the showpiece for European football."

Paul Gardner

GLOBAL VIEW

Wanted: some clear signals for all to see

POOR Mike Reed. He got it right, and he immediately screwed it up. He played the advantage rule to perfection in the recent Premiership game between Liverpool and Leeds...and then came that signal, that clenched fist sign of triumph, after his good decision had allowed Patrik Berger to go on and score.

For that he got a reprimand. Referees must keep their emotions to themselves, for fear that they betray partiality.

It's a bit hard on them, surrounded as they are by players, fans and coaches emoting themselves into a mass frenzy. But it's part of the job, to be the ice-cube in boiling water. It means a somewhat dehumanised ref, and therefore flies in the face of the desire – frequently expressed in England – to banish the toffee-nosed official in favour of someone more down-to-earth, someone 'you can talk to'.

Chatting, OK – but, please, no signals of triumph or despair.

Which brings me to the second, and much more important, problem. No signals? There are those – I claim a long affiliation to this group – who have exactly the opposite feeling: that referees do not do nearly enough signalling.

The signals I'm talking about are those that let everyone – fans, players, coaches, journalists – know which particular infringement a referee has just whistled for.

At the moment, believe it or not, there are no such signals in the rules of the game. Not a single one.

(A slight digression: I shall use, in this column, the word 'rules' rather than laws, which I find heavy and pompous. Rules is American usage, for sure, but none the worse for that. The Italians call them *regole*, the Spanish *reglas* – rules, not laws.)

The word 'signal' occurs only four times in the rules. The referee will give "a signal", undefined, at the kick-off; to allow a substitute to enter the field; and to re-admit a player sent to the sideline because he is bleeding.

The only signal that is spelled out is for the indirect free-kick, when the referee is instructed to "raise an arm above his head".

The showing of yellow and red cards certainly can be viewed as signals, as can the hoisting of that strange device to tell us how much extra time has been added on (on my television it always looks like 888 minutes). Call them visual aids, but the huge gap in time between their introductions (the cards first appeared at the 1970 World Cup) tells you just how slow progress has been.

Anyway, all these examples are, so to speak, procedural signals. You can add a few more of the same which involve the referee pointing – to the spot, or for a corner, or a goal-kick. But still nothing that explains a call.

In basketball and American football, the officials have a menu of official signals. Every time they make a call, the whole world knows exactly which offence is being punished, and who the offender is. In soccer, we are too often left to guess. A few signals are commonly seen – a pushing motion, or touching one hand with the other for handball, or a straight-line motion of the arm to indicate offside.

One of the most visible – and most useful to everyone – is the advantage 'play on' signal. Ironically, far from being a signal to explain a call, it is rather a signal to tell you that the referee is *not* going to make a call.

But these are unofficial, and the referee is not obliged to use them. In this informational age, that is not good enough. There is no reason whatever why people should not know what the referee is up to.

The eternal question: "What was the call, ref?" should become a thing of the past. As should that baffled explanation – as common among TV commentators as it is among fans – when a player receives a red card: "He must have said something."

We need a set of clear, official, obligatory signals, as part of the rules of the game. Not signals that tell us what the next step will be (e.g. penalty kick, or indirect free-kick, or goal-kick, or ejection, etc). We already have those. But signals that explain the previous move – i.e. that give the reason for the referee's whistle.

I see the introduction of mandatory signalling by the referee as part of the game's modernisation. The idea that the referee should operate in haughty secrecy is about 100 years behind the times.

NOTES AND QUOTES

"I don't want Malesani moralising to me. He should instead be looking at Stanic who produced a dive with a triple somersault to win a penalty."
Inter coach Marcello Lippi after Parma equalised against his team with a controversial injury-time penalty and Parma coach Alberto Malesani declared in a post-match interview that managers should stop whining about refereeing decisions.

"It's normal that many of our fans are disappointed at our lack of good results and poor play. They buy season tickets and have every right to show their displeasure. But it's not a new phenomenon here. Even the likes of Matthias Sammer and Karlheinz Riedle were abused as 'garbage millionaires' at one time."
Under-fire Borussia Dortmund president Gerd Niebaum after sacking coach Michael Skibbe and bringing in Bernd Krauss.

Nakayama hits record hat-trick

STRIKER Masashi Nakayama recorded what is believed to be the fastest hat-trick in an international when he scored three times within four minutes of kick-off as Japan went on a nine-goal spree against Brunei in the Asian Cup qualifiers.

Nakayama's first came after just 60 seconds, his second after two minutes and the third after three minutes and 15 seconds.

Diego: my life, my way

WATCH OUT, world, Diego Maradona is threatening to write his autobiography.

"Diego wants to record his time in Argentine football and different European clubs, with the agreement of his doctors," said his agent, Guillermo Coppola.

Stanley Matthews, 1915-2000

Brian Glanville pays tribute to the late, great dribbling wizard

STANLEY MATTHEWS played in the first professional game I ever saw: England against Scotland at Wembley in January 1942, on a frost-dappled ground. I was 10. Bill Shankly and Matt Busby were the Scottish wing-halves, but a star-spangled England team – Tommy Lawton, Eddie Hapgood, Stan Cullis, Wilf Mannion, Denis Compton – brushed them aside and won 3-0.

To my generation of schoolboy, Matthews was almost a demi-god. Yet if you look closely at his international career, you will see that he was often a prophet without honour in his own country. In what was only his second international, against Italy at the infamous Battle of Highbury of November 1934, Matthews was impugned by Geoffrey Simpson, the then sports columnist of the *Daily Mail*. He declared that Matthews displayed "the same faults of slowness and hesitation" he had done in a recent inter-League match. Perhaps, wrote Simpson, he "lacks the big match temperament"!

Memories...Sir Stanley in 1998

Seldom can words have come so sharply home to roost.

In future years, the bigger the match, the more remarkable Matthews could be, with his supreme balance, his wonderfully elusive swerve, his almost casual ability to put an opposing full-back on the wrong foot, swerve outside him, leave him for dead with a dynamic burst of speed, then get to the goal-line and cross the most effective of all passes.

Yet in 1946, just after the war and the restart of 'official' internationals, Matthews was left out of the England team in favour of that other great outside-right, Tom Finney. Only in May 1947 did the England selectors finally see the light, put Matthews on the right, Finney on the left and gain reward in Lisbon with a 10-0 demolition of Portugal.

A year later, the same pair toyed with the Italian defence in Turin. Poor Eliani, the likeable and modest Fiorentina left-back, pulled in that day to substitute the famous Maroso, was run ragged. England won 4-0. Yet two years later, when it came to picking the World Cup party for Brazil, Matthews was ignored.

Instead he went on tour to North America and helped an FA XI defeat the American World Cup side. At the last moment he was belatedly called to the colours, though he didn't play in either of England's opening matches, the second, at Belo Horizonte, being that dismal day when they lost 1-0 to the United States.

Son of a well-known boxer, Jack Matthews, nicknamed The Fighting Barber of Hanley, Matthews was brought up in a spartan regime, which included deep-breathing exercises at an open window on the coldest of winter mornings.

To the very end of a career that ended only when he was over 50, and back at his original club, Stoke City, he followed his own particular training regime which, in his Blackpool days, involved an early morning run across the sands.

Ironically, his first love as a club was not Stoke, whom he "hated", but Port Vale. So many years later, as a Port Vale executive, he'd find himself in trouble with the FA over alleged illegal dealings with young footballers.

At Stoke he started as the office boy but soon became a star. Yet he was long bitterly at odds with the club's manager, Bob McGrory, who – prophet with honour again – actually dropped Matthews from the First Division side in 1946.

That was just too much for Stanley, hero of England's devastation of the German defence in Berlin in 1938 (6-3), architect of Tommy Lawton's headed goal against Scotland in 1939,

Unstoppable...Matthews in his prime

which brought his country their first win at Hampden for many a year.

Matthews was sold for a mere £11,500 to Blackpool, for whom he'd played as a guest during the war, when serving with the RAF.

It was with Blackpool that he'd play in three Wembley FA Cup Finals, on the losing side in 1948 and 1951, but winning in the so-called Matthews Final of 1953.

Bolton were the losers, but would they have won had their left-half, Eric Bell, not been hurt? Blackpool fell behind, rallied, and it was a tired Bolton left flank down which Stanley skipped to make the winning goal for Bill Perry.

Three years later, at the age of 41, again at Wembley, Matthews made mincemeat of one of the game's finest full-backs, Nilton Santos of Brazil.

The day he went back to Stoke, in 1961, he took me and the manager, Tony Waddington, out to lunch at the Station Hotel, and insisted that "you must have butterflies!".

A few days later, before his debut in a Second Division game, I couldn't get a word out of him in the dressing-room.

"I'm not really with you now, Brian," he said. After all those marvellous years he still had butterflies.

Carlos Alberto Parreira

OPINION

Brazil's 1994 World Cup-winning coach questions the logic of the latest round of South American qualifiers

Wanderley Luxemburgo's work has hardly started. He will only really know what it is to be coach of the Brazilian national team when he enters the war that is World Cup qualifying.

The competitions he has been involved in so far don't have the same intensity as the World Cup. I know from experience that the pressure is inhuman. I don't miss it at all.

After four years in the job I felt mentally and spiritually drained. As long as you keep winning – fine. But at the first sign of a slip things become very difficult.

Brazil will qualify for 2002, but the away matches will not be easy. You have to prepare for a battle. The rivalry is so fierce in South America, and the atmosphere is very hostile. Referees are intimidated. Playing away is not easy for anyone, certainly not for Brazil, because everyone wants to beat us.

I remember when we lost away to Bolivia in 1993. The whole population came out into the streets to celebrate. They surrounded our bus and it took us an eternity to get back to the hotel.

That match was in La Paz, 3,500 metres above sea level. Bolivia, Ecuador and now Colombia are all playing their matches at altitude, which is a mortal enemy. It really makes a difference.

If you have time to adapt, fine. But no one has 21 days to train at altitude, so the ideal is to arrive as close to the game as possible. If the match is at 4 o'clock, it's best to get there at 11 or midday.

One change since my time in command is the format of the qualifiers in South America. Now it's done over 18 months, which I have to say I think is absurd. You could have two groups of five and sort the whole thing out inside two months, instead of which we have this marathon.

The calendar of international football is already very full. European clubs have spent a fortune importing players from South America. This format shows a lack of respect for those who have invested so heavily. It obviously creates problems for the countries with lots of players based in Europe, who now have to get them back five days before each game, once a month for a year and a half.

The only reason Brazil won't suffer with this is because of the enormous quality of our football. I expect Brazil and Argentina to qualify first and second, but there will be a real fight for the remaining places.

Interview by Tim Vickery

CNN WORLD SOCCER CLUB OF THE MONTH

Juan Veron, Lazio

1. LAZIO
2. JUVENTUS
3. MANCHESTER UNITED
4. CORINTHIANS
5. BAYERN MUNICH
6. RIVER PLATE
7. DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA
8. BARCELONA
9. MILAN
10. VASCO DA GAMA

NOTES AND QUOTES

"With the system we are using at the moment, it's going to be difficult to defend our title. Our opponents are outnumbering us in midfield, and up front we don't have the right sort of strikers for a lot of high and long balls."
Young Barcelona midfielder Xavi begging to be disciplined by club coach Louis Van Gaal.

"It annoys me that Flamengo pull my name out of the hat every time they want to deflect attention from their own problems."
Ronaldo on rumours of a move to the Rio club.

Keller takes US award

RAYO VALLECANO goalkeeper Kasey Keller has been voted 1999 US Player of the Year. He received 329 votes in the annual poll of journalists, ahead of Claudio Reyna (221) and 1998 winner Cobi Jones (109).

Torino's cartoon capers

LAZIO fans caused outrage last month when they held aloft a banner with the slogan 'Honour to Tiger Arkan' in tribute to the assassinated Serb warlord during a home match against Bari.

Now Torino fans have responded in kind with a light-hearted tribute to a cartoon hero. Before Torino's home game against Lazio at Stadio Delle Alpi, visiting fans were greeted with a satirical banner strung across the Torino stands.

It read: 'Honour to Sylvester the Cat.'

FINANCIAL FOOTBALL *Oliver Butler*

Bundesliga cash problems

THE German federation meeting on March 15 will be crucial, with many important inter-related issues coming up for discussion.

They include the TV deal for next season, and the Bundesliga clubs are hungry to see levels of TV revenue similar to those enjoyed by the other major European footballing countries.

They expect a doubling of the present income of £110million a year, but will be frustrated at the lack of competition among broadcasters. Values have been raised elsewhere because competition exists; in Germany there is only one pay-TV and pay-per-view operator.

For this reason the Bundesliga has been thinking about plans to establish its own pay-TV channel in order to provoke reasonable bids for the rights.

The low revenue from TV has forced clubs whose gate receipts are not that high, or who do not have a wealthy backer, to run up debts as they seek to compete with the big three clubs: Leverkusen, Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund.

Eintracht Frankfurt have spent the new century so far in crisis. Not only has form on the pitch faded, but the club are seeking to deal with debts worth a reported £4.3m.

For salvation Eintracht look likely to sell a stake in the club to marketing agency IMG, a path already taken by many other clubs. Whereas in England media companies have been fighting to get into clubs, in Germany it has been rights agents who have seen the potential from selling the rights to competing TV operators.

Clubs have made deals with agencies such as ISPR, Ufa and Sportwelt, including selling strategic stakes, in order to increase revenue.

Such deals have now come under the spotlight after a row between Hamburg and Ufa over the latter's intervention in the club's presidential election, a breach of DFB rules. The DFB meeting is expected to introduce a clarification of those rules which affect such deals, and this may compromise a number of existing arrangements.

The DFB also is concerned that the money provided by the agencies is going straight on players and not on longer-term financing. During the winter break there was a record level

Mounting debts...Eintracht Frankfurt striker Jan Aage Fjortoft leads the way, but the club are struggling

oiling up

of spending by clubs, dubbed a "spiral of death" by DFB vice-president Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, who also said: "Taking everything into account, I can see a disaster coming around the corner."

Such a disaster may come with the DFB's refusal to grant a club a playing licence for next season, due to poor finances. Clubs have to submit their annual applications to the federation at the March meeting and in the light of such agency deals and such transfer spending, the structure of a club's finances will be closely scrutinised.

A licence refusal is unlikely because of the repercussions it would have for the whole national game, but the threat and the advent of a better TV deal will create a watershed for the way the clubs are financed in the future.

With such troubles accumulating, Bundesliga clubs would be well advised to attend a conference on the Economics of Professional Soccer to be held in Berlin in June.

If that is not too late.

Oliver Butler writes for Soccer Investor (tel: +44 (0) 20 7329 3500).

Mark Gleeson
OPINION

Stop this nonsense

Authorities should take action after the disgraceful detention of the Ivory Coast squad

AFRICAN footballers have been locked up before now, and I suspect that some will be again. But something has to be done immediately to stop the nonsense.

The bizarre images on Ivorian television, shown worldwide during the African Nations Cup, were horrifying. The Ivory Coast junta leader Robert Guei screaming at the players, like a sergeant-major scolding a platoon of new recruits; the entire 22-man squad marching up and down in formation, and being subjected to lectures on 'patriotism'.

Their 'crime' was to miss – in the end by a single goal – a place in the Nations Cup quarter-finals.

The Ivorian players, who beat co-hosts Ghana 2-0 in their final group match, were picked up in Accra by a military charter plane after their elimination, flown across the border to Yamoussoukro and then kept in 'detention' for two days, ostensibly for their 'own safety'.

There they had to undergo the cruellest of public humiliations, their shame recorded by domestic television and broadcast for all the world to see, before being released.

FIFA, commendably, sent a letter of protest but the Confederation of African Football and the Ivorian soccer authorities stayed eerily silent.

Last year there was a similar incident in neighbouring Burkina Faso, where the players of army side USFA had their heads shaven and were kept in detention for a night after losing the championship in the last match of the season.

That was ordered by Colonel Honore Traore, president of the club and a prominent Burkinabe federation official, who is still allowed to keep his position in football without any sanction from FIFA or CAF. That is downright disgusting.

Punishing the Ivorians is difficult because it would be unfair to the country's soccer community if their teams were suspended from international competition because of the ranting lunacy of their military leader. But some signal must be sent to these despots that this sort of conduct is entirely unacceptable.

Government patronage is a huge part of soccer in Africa, where economically-strapped federations always have to knock on the sports minister's door to get the money to play.

Lining up...Ivory Coast players at Nations Cup 2000

So the ministers have a big say in the running of the game, and enjoy a status in African soccer that is way above their station.

Now is the time for the likes of FIFA and CAF to shun any Ivorian officials connected in any way with their government, refuse to allow them to attend games, refuse to share platforms with them, shun and ostracise them at every turn.

Sometimes symbolic gestures like that have the desired effect, particularly in Africa, where public humiliation is to be avoided at all costs.

When a game like soccer enjoys an enduring passion, far more than any individual could ever muster, the keepers of that game have an obligation to use their power to ensure the sanctity of the sport.

Read Mark Gleeson's exclusive reports from the 2000 African Nations Cup, starting on page 21.

TRANSFERS

PLAYER		FROM	TO
Rati ALEKSIDZE	M	Dinamo Tbilisi	Chelsea
Johan ANEGRUND	D	IFK Gothenburg	Orgryte
Karim BAGHERI	M	Arminia Bielefeld	Al Nasr (UAE)
Gustavo BARTELT	F	Roma	Aston Villa (loan)
BEBETO	F	Toros Neza	Kashima Antlers
Eduardo BERIZZO	D	Marseille	River Plate
Nicola BERTI	M	Alaves	Northern Spirit
Vital BORKELMANS	D	Club Brugge	Gent
Stan COLLYMORE	F	Aston Villa	Leicester
Fabricio COLOCCINI	D	Boca Juniors	Milan
Sasa CURCIC	M	NY/NJ MetroStars	Obilic Belgrade
Ruben DA SILVA	F	Rosario Central	Nacional (Uru)
Aidan DAVISON	G	Sheffield United	Bradford
Talal EL KARKOURI		Raja Casablanca	Paris Saint-Germain (loan)
Stephen FRAIL	D	Tranmere	St Johnstone
Diego GAVILAN	M	Cerro Porteno	Newcastle
Antonio GOUVEIA	M	Belenenses	Montpellier (loan)
Xavier GRAVELAINE	F	Watford	Le Havre
Hossam HASSAN	F	Al Ahly	Al Ain
Colin HENDRY	D	Rangers	Coventry
Sasa ILIC	G	Charlton	West Ham (loan)
Earl JEAN	F	West Connection	Hibernian
Michael JOHANSEN	F	Bolton	AB
Andreas LUND	F	Molde	Wimbledon
Enzo MARESCA	M	West Brom	Juventus
Daniel MONTENEGRO	M	Marseille	Independiente (Arg) (loan)
Domenico MORFEO	F	Cagliari	Verona (loan)
Bruno N'GOTTY	D	Milan	Venezia (loan)
Daniel NORIEGA	F	Union Santa Fe	Sporting Cristal (loan)
Theodore NZUE NGUEMA	F	Esperance	Sporting Braga
Pierluigi ORLANDINI	M	Milan	Venezia (loan)
Walter PANDIANI	F	Penarol	La Coruna
Jonathan PARTIN		Edsbyn IF	Tottenham
PAULO SOUSA	M	Inter	Parma (loan)
Degan PAVLOVIC	F	Malmo	Kavala
Milen PETKOV	M	CSKA Sofia	AEK Athens
Paolo POGGI	F	Udinese	Roma
Tomas RAZANAUSKAS	M	Flora Tallinn	Brann Bergen
Freddy RINCON	M	Corinthians	Santos
RUI PATACA	F	Belenenses	Montpellier (loan)
Michele SERENA	M	Parma	Inter (loan)
Miguel SIMAO	M	St Johnstone	Sanfrecce Hiroshima
Niklas SKOOG	F	Nurnberg	Orebro
Neville SOUTHALL	G	Torquay	Bradford
Robert SPEHAR	F	Verona	Sporting Lisbon
Julio TELLEZ	F	America (Col)	Velez Sarsfield
Max TONETTO	D	Milan	Bologna
Sharbei TOUMA	M	Djurgardens	AIK
Christopher WREH	F	Arsenal	Den Bosch (loan)
Sergei YURAN	F	Free agent	Sturm Graz
Zlatomir ZAGORCIC	D	Lovech	Lugano

Simoes goes

Going home...Simoes

COACHES ON THE MOVE

RENE SIMOES, Jamaica's national coach for some six years, has taken up the post of technical director with Flamengo in his native Brazil.

Simoes led Jamaica to their first World Cup finals in 1998, but came in for much criticism after the team exited the recent Gold Cup after the first round. He has also suffered ill health and wanted to be closer to his family back in Brazil.

Elsewhere in that country, **Carlos Alberto Parreira** has been fired by Fluminense, who lost all but one of their group games in the Rio-Sao Paulo tournament.

Guus Hiddink, the former Holland national team manager, has succeeded Carlos Griguol at Betis Sevilla.

German **David Marinus** has succeeded Belgian Dimitri Daudovic as coach of United Arab Emirates side Al Wahda, while rivals Al Wasl have lost the services of former Tunisia national coach **Henri Kasparczak**. He has replaced Henri Michel as boss of Morocco.

COACHES STAYING ON

EVERTON's **Walter Smith** is set to stay until summer 2003 after signing a two-year extension to his contract. **Bobby Robson** has agreed a new 12-month rolling contract with Newcastle.

PLAYERS STAYING ON

BAYERN MUNICH midfielders **Thorsten Fink** and **Michael Tarnat** have both added two years to their existing deals. They are now committed to the club until 2003. **Thomas Doll** has extended his stay at Hamburg by a year.

Roberto Carlos has signed a new two-year deal with Real Madrid which will keep him there until 2002.

Veteran Arsenal defenders **Lee Dixon** and **Nigel Winterburn** have both signed new one-year contracts. Chelsea defender **Jon Harley** has signed a three-and-a-half-year extension to his contract which commits him to the club until June 2003. Midfielder **Danny Murphy** has added two years to his deal with Liverpool. He is now contracted until 2003.

Strasbourg keeper **Thierry Debes** has committed himself to the club until summer 2005.

French defender **Jocelyn Angloma** has added a year to his contract at Valencia.

OUT OF ACTION

REAL MADRID'S Brazilian midfielder **Savio** will be out for a further month after injuring a knee against Betis Sevilla at the end of January.

Elsewhere in Spain, Betis Sevilla defender **Jorge Otero** suffered knee damage in training and will be out for weeks; a torn hamstring has put Barcelona defender **Sergi** out until the end of March; Atletico Madrid defender **Juan Manuel Lopez** has a knee

tendon injury and will not play again this season; and Espanyol forward **Miguel Angel Benitez** may be out for a year after snapping knee ligaments.

Marseille defender **William Gallas** is likely to miss the rest of the season after breaking a leg in training, as is Paris Saint-Germain defender **Jimmy Algerino**, who injured a knee against Marseille.

In England, Sunderland midfielder **Gavin McCann** will miss the rest of the season with ligament damage, as will West Ham keeper **Shaka Hislop**, who broke a leg against Bradford.

Knee damage...Benitez

INTERNATIONAL INS AND OUTS

VETERAN Japan forward **Kazuyoshi Miura** was recalled to the national squad for the Carlsberg Cup tournament, after an absence of 20 months.

South Africa defender **Mark Fish** announced his international retirement after the African Nations Cup, citing his distaste for the way the South African federation operated.

Russia coach Oleg Romantsev called up PAOK Salonika's **Omari Tetradze** for his squad to face Israel, the first time he had been included in nearly three years.

Defenders **Veselin Velikov** of CSKA Sofia and Neftohimik's **Veselin Branimirov** were debutants in new Bulgaria coach Stoicho Mladenov's party for the four-nation tournament in Chile.

Forward **Zaza Dzhanashia** was recalled to the Georgia squad for the first time since being dropped for disciplinary reasons by former coach Johan Boskamp last July.

Sunderland defender **Paul Butler** won his first Republic of Ireland cap in the friendly against the Czech Republic.

New Northern Ireland boss Sammy McIlroy recalled midfielders **Jim Magilton** and **Danny Sonner** to his squad for the Luxembourg friendly after long absences.

Zambian midfielder **Kalusha Bwalya** announced his international retirement after his team were eliminated from the African Nations Cup.

OTHER NEWS

Lorenzo Staelens was named Belgium's Player of the Year. At nearly 36 he is the oldest recipient of the award.

The **Azerbaijan** League was suspended indefinitely after most top division clubs refused to play until the federation held new elections.

OBITUARY

FORMER Portuguese international **Matateu** has died in Canada at the age of 72. Matateu, born in Mozambique, was Portugal's leading scorer in the 1952-53 and 1954-55 seasons.

Disillusioned...Mark Fish

BOOKS

Rounding up the best (and worst) in football publishing

THE ONLY WAY IS UP

Ian McMahon
(Bond Publications, £9.95)

LESS than two years ago Doncaster Rovers were all but in their coffin. They had lost their place in the Football League, having had one of the worst playing records in a season's history, as well as being involved in financial and arson scandals.

Then a group of would-be saviours appointed a new chief executive, Ian McMahon, a former pro (his career was ended by injury at 21) who had later dabbled in various forms of employment in and around soccer.

When the new regime moved in, the club had virtually nothing, not even playing kit, let alone training kit. But McMahon found some sudden well of faith there. He and his colleagues went to work.

Some 10 months later, after dozens of late nights and thousands of road miles, McMahon watched as Donny, having increased attendances by nearly 100 per cent and avoided relegation from the Football Conference, beat Farnborough to win the Endsleigh Challenge Trophy, one of the non-league game's knockout prizes.

How they did it is told graphically by McMahon in this enthralling book. It's written and designed by an amateur, but those 'faults' are among its charms. It's packed with warmth and humanity and, at a time when 'big' football in England has rarely had worse publicity, it helps to restore your faith

David Prole

FOOTBALL CONFIDENTIAL

Ian Bent, Richard McIlroy, Kevin Mousley, Peter Walsh
(BBC, £6.99)

A BARGAIN paperback devoted to topics that have been investigated by the authors, a quartet of BBC radio journalists. They range from improperly maintained playing fields to terrace hooligans in non-league soccer, from the incidence of Alzheimer's disease among footballers of a certain type to the great ticket sales rip-off of France 98 (which could be surpassed if FIFA grants 2006 to England).

Diligently researched and pacily written, this is splendid value for money. A pity, though, that the authors allowed some silly errors to get through. You would expect them to be able to spell Middlesbrough, wouldn't you?

Mel Duke

ULTRA NIPPON

Jonathan Birchall
(Headline, £16.99)

"HOW Japan reinvented football" is the rather extravagant sub-title of this unusual book, which tells of soccer's rapid growth (and subsequent decline) there in recent years.

The pace of progress has been remarkably quick, and the ups and downs are charted in entertaining style by Jonathan Birchall, a writer who has been based in the Far East for a decade, and has had a ringside seat at most of the goings-on.

A lot of the action takes place in and around the Shimizu S-Pulse club and features coach Steve Perryman ("Pellyman-san") and assistant Phil Holder, who provide "a little bit of North London in Shizuoka Prefecture". Other names flit in and out of the action, and so do snippets of information about non-football matters, but always Birchall gets back to the main task in hand. According to the publisher's publicity, this book is a strong contender for sports writing prizes. Could be right.

David Prole

144 not out

Cap that...Matthaus before his 144th appearance for Germany, against Holland in Amsterdam

Lothar Matthaus – officially the most capped player of all time – talks exclusively to Simon Kuper about his career to date and his future in the United States

WORLD SOCCER: You are about to leave European football to play in the US, and just before leaving you have broken a world record by winning your 144th cap for Germany. Has the record been a particular target for you?

LOTHAR MATTHAUS: It hasn't been a target. For me what has always been important is enjoying football and wanting to win; to show that the fire still burns within me. Football is fun. It's fun winning the ball, it's fun shooting at goal, it's fun hitting a pass over 60 metres that arrives. It's like with golf: when you hit a ball and it flies and flies and flies, you relish it.

How did you come to sign for the New York MetroStars?

I first spoke to Bora Milutinovic, who was then coaching the team, when I was in the US with the German team in February 1999. At first it wasn't too serious, a sort of joke. But the contact remained, and one day I thought: "Man, New York, it's a big city, an interesting city, a place where you can learn as a person."

Without football I would never have gone to live in New York. What was very important for me was to learn English. I didn't choose New York for sporting reasons, didn't choose it for financial reasons, I chose to develop myself as a person.

Now they are trying to turn New York into a capital of football. A lot of Europeans live there, a lot of Latin Americans. Maybe I can help make it happen that one day there won't be 5,000 people in the stadium, as there were recently, but 50,000. And the rest of America looks to New York.

My first game, Miami against New York, will be on national TV. Even that is a big step. So things are already starting to move.

How do you envisage life in the city?

I'm going to live in Manhattan, near Central Park, an area where there's a lot to do in your spare time. I'm looking forward to being able to go shopping anonymously. In Germany when I go for a meal, people are always watching me: how I use my knife and fork, my spoon. If things work out in New York I can see myself staying two or three years.

But you have always played for great teams. That won't be the case in New York.

I am prepared for that. I know that the American player gives his all. But I also think people under-estimate US soccer. We should show it some respect. In 20 or 30 years' time the US will be a footballing superpower, because the youth of America loves soccer. In the colleges more young people play soccer than basketball. That surprised me, but it's a statistic.

If you wanted a great city where you could learn English, you could have gone to London.

Even if you don't believe me, three months ago I had two offers from London. No, it had to be New York.

Which clubs in London?

Which club is bottom of the Premier League? Bradford? No, Watford. It was Watford and Fulham. Not the big clubs.

Has saying goodbye to the Bundesliga been difficult for you?

No. I've played Hamburg so often, I've played Leverkusen so often, I always knew: one day it would be over. Still, leaving might be a bit emotional, because there is a lot that connects Bayern Munich and me. I remember Franz Beckenbauer calling me in 1992 when I was at Inter. I said: "Listen, Franz, I don't feel right here." He said: "Then come back to Bayern." I said: "Seriously?" He said: "Seriously." I said: "But Franz, I have a knee ligament injury." He said: "I know you have a knee ligament injury. Come back to Bayern."

So I came back. I am somebody who has to feel right. I've had few clubs, because at all of them I was contented. If Bayern reach the Champions League Final I'll be in Paris. But I'm not sad that I won't be there as an active player.

Your last big task with the national team is Euro 2000. But the German team have struggled recently.

German football is certainly not as strong as it was 10, 20 years ago. Because of the Bosman judgment we have many foreigners in our League who block the rise of young talent. In the past there has been more respect for the 'tournament team' Germany.

But the scaffolding of the side is Bayern Munich, one of the best teams in Europe, which always supplies six or seven players. Then there are Germans doing well abroad like Didi Hamann, Ziege and Bierhoff. We usually play 3-4-3, always with wingers. Our players are as good as the other teams'.

What we often lack is the tactical thinking that young players in Holland and France are schooled in. Today I looked at the Dutch squad sheet. Those 22 names in the Dutch squad, I looked at them with burning eyes. I thought: "Each one of these 22 should play." Yet they haven't won in 12 or 13 games! Being able to give everything, to turn an apparently lost situation into victory, is something the Germans have.

Will you be able to prepare properly for Euro 2000 in the weak American League?

In America I have fewer games than here in Europe, which with an eye to Euro 2000 is good. I'll play Saturday, Saturday, Saturday.

In Europe the demands on players are very, very high. That's why the English have no success in big tournaments, because they have the hardest season of all. Maybe it's getting too much for the fans as well. Last Saturday at Bayern-Duisburg there were only 28,000 spectators. We must be careful. I raise my finger and say: "We must be careful."

Who will win Euro 2000?

My favourites are Holland and France. I rank them higher than England, Italy and Germany, but not much higher. Oh, and I would class Spain as one of my favourites too. But Spain don't have a 'tournament team'. The Portuguese, who are in our group, have a skilful team, but sometimes they are in love with the ball, they don't always play 100 per cent with their heads. This summer they have one disadvantage: they are in a group with Germany.

England are also in a group with Germany. How do you assess them?

I know that the English have a lot of respect for the Germans. The English play attractive football; they used to play kick and rush. But the many negative results of England against Germany won't just disappear from their heads.

(continued on page 16)

Do you have any advice for David Beckham, who has been in trouble recently?
He should stop making the mistakes that I made. I would advise him to keep his private life out of the media, even if that's very difficult. You'll always be in the papers to some extent, but you shouldn't open the curtains. 'My house is my castle', I think the English say.

If you are always in the press I think one's colleagues form their own opinion. 'Why is he always at the fashion show in London?' Within the group that can be damaging. Why are his five Ferraris always in the paper? He deserves 10 Ferraris, but they shouldn't always be in the paper.

On the field I have no advice for him. He's a wonderful footballer.

For opposing fans you have often been a villain.
The whistles in Eindhoven, they're all part of the game. I don't expect applause in Holland, although to this day I don't know why the Dutch fans have singled me out. I can't expect the fans of the opposition to respect me. With me it's a bit like Bayern Munich: anyone who isn't a fan of the club, is totally against them.

But in Germany in the last two, three years I haven't heard those whistles and chants against me any more. I receive more respect from away fans now. I think that for many people, even in other professions, I am a sort of example. In Germany it's difficult for older people to get jobs. Recently I got a nice letter from a man in his fifties who said he had mentioned me in a job interview to prove that age doesn't matter. He got the job.

About your career: what was the point when you rose from being a good player to being a great player?
I think my breakthrough was the World Cup of 1986. Whereas under Jupp Derwall I had been the fifth wheel on the wagon, under Franz Beckenbauer I became a regular in the national team. But using me to mark Maradona in the Final was a mistake, I think, as Franz himself has admitted. I concentrated on Maradona, but we neglected our own game. When we were 2-0 down we changed our system. Karl-Heinz Forster was put on Maradona, I was freed, we got back to 2-2. Then we made a dumb mistake and lost.

When was the last time you cried after a game?
I was still very small, eight or 10 years old, a boy in Herzogenaurach. 'I couldn't lose', that was my mentality then. But I haven't cried since. I didn't cry after the Champions League Final against Manchester last year, perhaps because the shock was too great to cry.

But there are other players for whom just half an hour after a defeat everything is all right.
Five minutes after the game everything is all right! After the Champions League Final against Manchester, I had to comfort my girlfriend! She was much more upset than I was.

Looking back, what sort of footballer were you?
I certainly wasn't a Maradona. I was a very fast player, and when I saw a space I used it. If I dribbled past someone, he didn't catch up with me. I was a player who came with a run-up. And I saw the game. What Maradona saw in the small space, I could see over long distances.

And I am fairly complete, that's what made me strong. I'm small, but I can head the ball well. I always had a weak left foot, Trapattoni taught me to use my left. I was 28 when I learned that.

Today I'm saying everything. In 1991 the Inter chairman, Pellegrini, wouldn't let me go to Real Madrid. He said: "Lothar, if you have a Picasso in your house, you don't sell it."

What was your biggest mistake?
My biggest mistake was my public row with Berti Vogts and Jurgen Klinsmann. My mistake was to play it through the press. We were old enough to have sat down and talked with one another personally.

Your strongest opponent?
Maradona. He was someone you can't compare with anyone. I see Ronaldo, I see Kluivert, they are super-great players, but the ball belonged to Maradona. Something I also appreciated in Maradona was that he always fought for his team. He was a team player, off the pitch as well. Guys who played for Napoli with him have confirmed that to me.

Your best game for Germany?
At the 1990 World Cup against Yugoslavia. In a big tournament, it's important how you start. The unrest from outside, from fans and the press, can be suppressed at the start if you play a great game. And the respect among your opponents grows.

You are already being mentioned as the next manager of Germany.
It could be. It pleases me that people are thinking about that, that they see me in that role. But who knows? As Franz Beckenbauer always says: how the Virgin got the Child, no one knows. I'm not thinking about coaching yet.

LOTHAR MATTHAUS - LIFE AND TIMES

Italian style...on target for Inter in 1991

March 21, 1961 Born in Erlangen, Germany.
1979 Begins his professional career with Borussia Monchengladbach.
1980 Makes international debut against Holland.
1984 Joins Bayern Munich.
1988 Joins Inter. Wins Serie A in 1989.
1990 Captains Germany to victory at the World Cup in Italy; named European Footballer of the Year.
1992 Returns to Bayern Munich.
1998 Earns a recall to the Germany squad for the World Cup in France.
February 23, 2000 Becomes the world's most-capped player with his 144th international appearance, against Holland.

HONOURS

Bayern Munich
Bundesliga champions 1985, 1986, 1987, 1994, 1997, 1999;
West German/German Cup winners 1986, 1998;
UEFA Cup winners 1996;
European Cup finalists 1987, 1999.

World champion...Italia 90

Internazionale
Italian champions 1989;
UEFA Cup winners 1991.

Germany
European champions 1980 (did not play in the Final);
World champions 1990.

World Soccer Player of the Year 1990;
FIFA World Player of the Year 1991;
European Footballer of the Year 1990;
German Footballer of the Year 1990, 1999.

CLUB CAREER
1979-84 Borussia Monchengladbach
1984-88 Bayern Munich
1988-92 Internazionale
1992-present Bayern Munich.

INTERNATIONAL CAREER
1st cap v Holland 14.06.80 (won 3-2)
50th cap v Spain 15.10.86 (2-2)
100th cap v United States 13.06.93 (won 4-3)
144th cap v Holland 23.02.00 (lost 2-1)

MAJOR TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES
1980 European Championship (1 game)
1982 World Cup (2 games)
1984 European Championship (3 games)
1986 World Cup (7 games)
1988 European Championship (4 games)
1990 World Cup (7 games)
1994 World Cup (5 games)
1998 World Cup (4 games)

OTHER RECORDS
– The only outfield player to have appeared at five World Cup finals.
– Most appearances at World Cup finals: 25.

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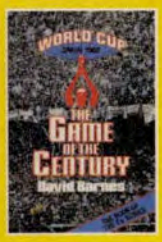

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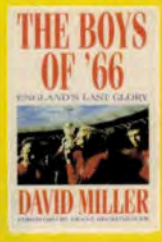

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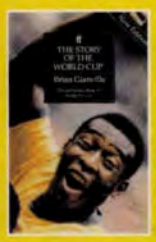

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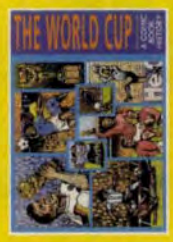

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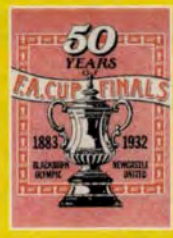

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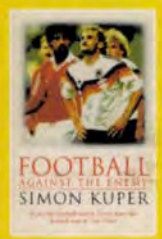

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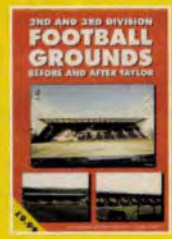

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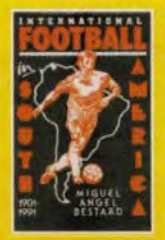

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WORLD SOCCER

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP 2000 REVIEW

Cameroon's Rigobert Song celebrates scoring the deciding penalty against Nigeria in the Final in Lagos. Over the next six pages, Mark Gleeson tells the full story of how the 22nd Cup of Nations was won.

THE FINAL

Shoot-out drama settled by Song

Cameroon 2 Nigeria 2 (aet; Cameroon 4-3 on pens)

THERE was a cagey start to the game, played in front of a capacity crowd and with an intimidating atmosphere. But it all came alive after 26 minutes when Pierre Wome played a free-kick short to Samuel Eto'o, who was given time and space to turn and shoot past Nigeria keeper Ike Shorunmu.

Four minutes later the Eto'o-Patrick Mboma combination, so effective earlier in the tournament, delivered again, Mboma shooting through the goalkeeper's legs.

It might have been 3-0, with Taribo West rattling his own crossbar as he attempted to head clear from Wome's free-kick, but Austin Okocha kept Nigerian hopes alive, consistently turning opposing markers inside-out.

Then, in first-half injury time, Nwankwo Kanu found surprise starter Raphael Chukwu free on the left, and his shot beat Cameroon keeper Boukar Alioum.

That was Chukwu's last kick, for after half-time Julius Aghahowa went on in his place, to allow Okocha to push forward. Three minutes into the second half the PSG man latched on to a loose clearance to blast home from long range, a goal of the highest quality that set off a spine-chilling, thunderous roar.

Substitute Tijani Babangida might have snatched a win for the Nigerians near the end, but Alioum pulled off a fine save.

Tired legs on both sides ensured an extra-time period without much incident. Nigeria captain Sunday Oliseh was lucky not to be sent off when the referee, who appeared to be reaching for a yellow card, stopped when he realised Oliseh had already been cautioned.

Then came the penalty shoot-out, the fourth in the tournament's history, and a controversy that will remain a talking point for years to come.

Both sides scored twice before Kanu had his kick saved by Alioum. Cameroon went 3-2 ahead through Wome, and then Victor Ikpeba hit his kick against the underside of the bar. The ball bounced down and out, but TV replays showed that it had crossed the line and that the officials had erred badly in disallowing it. But Ikpeba's initial reaction had been to turn away with his hands on his head

Silver celebration...Bilong and Song

Final push...Nigeria's Okocha holds off Kalla of Cameroon

OVERVIEW

Play transcends the chaos

The Nations Cup is now up there among the big events – despite all the problems

THERE was sufficient entertainment on the pitch to suggest that the African Nations Cup is now firmly among the leading events on the international footballing calendar.

For the first time, the tournament featured more players based in Europe than in Africa, and the growing galaxy of international stars ensured a spectacle well worth watching.

Some of the biggest clubs in the world had representatives on view – Real Madrid, Juventus, Manchester United and Benfica. This made for an absorbing contest but the problem with the Nations Cup is that any progress made in the playing arena is continually retarded by the organisation off it.

The first co-hosting of a major football event, ahead of the upcoming European Championship in Belgium and Holland and the 2002 World Cup finals in Asia, was keenly watched as an indicator of the success, or pitfalls, of such an idea.

The Confederation of African Football judged the event a success, their secretary-general, Mustapha Fahmy, proclaiming total satisfaction. In private, though, officials were scathing about the lack of co-operation between Ghana and Nigeria, who ran virtually separate shows.

Nigeria, indeed, was appalling, the planning and problem anticipation negligible, and general mayhem and chaos the order of the day.

Lagos is never the easiest city in the world, an aggressive town that often resembles walking on to a set for a re-make of *Mad Max* mixed in with *Blade Runner*.

Even after two riots inside and outside Surelere stadium, and subsequent fines from CAF, the Nigerian hosts organised threadbare security for the Final.

Ghana was serene in contrast

and showed that referee Maurad Daami was not the only one uncertain about what had happened.

Marc-Vivien Foe could then have won the trophy for Cameroon but he too missed, and Oliseh brought the shoot-out score back to 3-3.

Cameroon captain Rigobert Song, reluctantly took responsibility for his team's fifth penalty and hit the ball into the roof of the net to win the trophy.

● Shaun Bartlett scored his fifth goal of the tournament, a total that brought him the Golden Boot, to put South Africa ahead after 11 minutes in the Third Place Play-off against Tunisia. Ali Zitouni equalised on the half-hour mark, but Bafana Bafana took the lead again in the 62nd minute, through Siyabonga Nomvete.

However, a minute from full time Zitouni exploited an error by South African keeper Andre Arendse to head home Tunisia's equaliser.

Roles were reversed in the ensuing penalty shoot-out, with Arendse saving Zitouni's sudden-death spot-kick. Alex Bapela then stepped up to give South Africa victory.

See World Service, starting page 35, for the line-ups from all the games plus full squads.

but was let down by poor attendances at the games it staged.

CAF, nevertheless, are to pursue the idea of co-hosting, because it now gives smaller countries the chance to stage the tournament in tandem with a neighbour.

FIFA, of course, has already said that Japan and South Korea will be the first and last time for them, but in Africa co-hosting is an economic necessity.

It is sad that the Nations Cup still carries an image of inefficiency because the footballers did much to try to change that.

Cameroon's credible win put them back at the top of the pile more than a decade after their last triumph on the continent. It was a deserved victory, despite Victor Ikpeba's disallowed penalty.

The Indomitable Lions set a new standard for Africa at the World Cup as far back as Italia 90. Now they get to keep the Nations Cup after winning it for a third time.

Nigeria blew hot and cold, urged on by fanatical support in Lagos, but the lack of goals from reigning African Footballer of the Year Nwankwo Kanu was a major disappointment.

Final crush...fans in the overcrowded stadium in Lagos

The Patrick and Lauren show

RATHER ironic, isn't it, that the two key figures for Cameroon in their African Nations Cup success should have come through the football systems in Europe rather than Africa?

Neither **Patrick Mboma** nor **Lauren Mayer** has spent much of their life on the African continent. Both were born in Cameroon but migrated with their parents, to France and Spain respectively, at an early age.

Key man...Lauren Mayer

Mboma started his career at Paris Saint-Germain but failed to impress and was loaned out twice before moving on to, what seemed at the time, a comfortable pension and exile in Japan's J.League.

He found his form, and confidence, there, twice ending as top scorer as well as attracting the attention of the Cameroonian football authorities. He is now at Cagliari in Italy but with the team headed back towards Serie B he is likely to find new employers.

Mboma's languid style is deceptive. He looks at times to trot around the pitch with little interest in the play around him. At the beginning of the Nations Cup in Ghana he missed some chances that John Cleese could have scored, even afflicted with a funny walk.

Crucial goals...Patrick Mboma

But Mboma scored a marvellous long-range goal against Ivory Coast in the first round that ironically turned out to be the saviour for co-hosts Ghana in their bid to reach the quarter-finals, and then suddenly turned on the magic in the knockout stages.

Mayer was the workhorse of the Cameroon side, his graft on the right flank the cause of much distress for opposing teams.

On the field, he is omnipresent but off it he often cuts a forlorn figure, unable to communicate effectively with his team-mates because he speaks only Spanish.

His qualities are already well known on the European stage – he played for Mallorca in last year's European Cup-winners Cup Final and also has been the subject of some interest from Italian clubs. He was largely unknown to the African audience but now finds himself a superstar on the continent as well.

Julius Aghahowa, the Nigerian striker from Esperance in Tunisia, will no doubt be in the report books of the Italian scouts, too, while Tunisia's **Ali Zitouni** is reportedly headed further north after his performances at the finals. Aghahowa was the Nations Cup supersub, scoring three goals after going on for the Super Eagles, but was not able to turn the tide in the Final against Cameroon.

Hands on...Algeria's Moussouni (right) with Tchoutang of Cameroon

QUARTER-FINALS

Senegal so close to a sensation

Cameroon 2 Algeria 1

Two early goals and a display of complete dominance soon had this game wrapped up. Cameroon were 2-0 ahead before the half-hour after goals by Samuel Eto'o and Marc-Vivien Foe, and there could have been a lot more as the Indomitable Lions returned to form following the meaningless group defeat by Togo.

Algeria were allowed to fight back in the second half but never really threatened to add to Abdelhafid Tasfaout's headed goal.

The result was no surprise – unlike the fact that, despite some awful fouls, Rigobert Song remained on the pitch.

Ghana 0 South Africa 1

A brilliantly simple move settled this game three minutes before half-time. Helman Mkhalele's long pass found Shaun Bartlett out wide. In turn, he hit a cross on the full volley and Siyabonga Nomvete headed in.

The second half turned into a rearguard action after Eric Tinkler was sent off in the 48th minute.

Sammy Kuffour headed against the South African bar but that was as close as Ghana went and it was no surprise that the co-hosts, short of influential players, should go out at this stage.

Egypt 0 Tunisia 1

Tunisia were out from the start to spoil the Egyptian running game, cutting down their wide options that had served them so well in the first round. It proved effective, if exasperating.

That Tunisia got a goal was a bonus. Ibrahim Said left a leg trailing and brought down Tarek Thabet, with the resultant penalty being converted by Khaled Badra.

From then the game quickly deteriorated into a bruising affair. Egypt did not change their tactics and lost concentration, thereby keeping up the tradition of defending champions being unable to hold on to the Nations Cup.

Nigeria 2 Senegal 1 (aet)

There was high drama in Lagos, with Senegal six minutes away from

SEMI-FINALS

Babangida's double decider

Nigeria 2 South Africa 0

A tactical master stroke, switching Tijani Babangida to the left wing to exploit the lack of pace in South Africa's backline, paid off within 45 seconds. Thabo Mngomeni carelessly lost the ball in midfield and, with the defence backing off, Babangida was allowed to shoot past a badly positioned Andre Arendse.

Thirty minutes later the contest was over. The Bafana Bafana three-man defence was caught flat-footed and Babangida scored again.

After that Nwankwo Kanu and Victor Ikpeba both missed narrowly for Nigeria, and though South Africa had a fair deal of possession, their first touch and crosses were woeful.

Cameroon 3 Tunisia 0

A fortunate early save by Boukar Alioum stopped Adel Sellimi from giving Tunisia the lead in a tightly contested first half. But after the break Cameroon ran away with the tie, Samuel Eto'o's goal sandwiched between two from Patrick Mboma.

With Ghana already eliminated, the people of Accra were scarcely interested in the game. A pity, because it was a meeting of some stature and entertainment.

Going for goal...Nomvete of South Africa fires beyond

arguably the biggest upset in Nations Cup history. It was a thrilling game from start to finish, with Khalilou Fadiga's first international goal giving Senegal an early lead.

There could have been two or three more, with Henri Camara brilliant on the breakaway but unable to finish.

Nigeria piled on pressure, roared on by an anxious crowd, and eventually sub Julius Aghahowa saved the tie, and arguably assured the success of the tournament, with the equaliser just before the finish.

Two minutes into extra time, he scored again, to set off a crowd invasion that cost Nigeria a £3,500 fine and stopped the game for 10 minutes. Senegal refused to play on until adequate security was provided, not an unreasonable request in a stadium where organisation was pitiful.

There was no way back after that for Senegal, but they did enough to provoke Austin Okocha into elbowing an opponent and receiving a red card.

Two days later some 50,000 fans welcomed the Senegal team back home at Dakar airport.

Nigeria's Okpara

Star is the youngest yet

A PLAYER named Star set a record as the youngest player ever to appear at the African Nations Cup finals.

Chiva Star Nzighou, who is on the books of French club Nantes, turned out for Gabon in their opening Group B game against South Africa in Kumasi at the age of 16 years, two months and 30 days. This made him 10 days younger than the mark set by Mohammed Kallon of Sierra Leone in South Africa in 1996. Nzighou went on to become the youngest scorer in Nations Cup history, too, when he netted after 20 minutes.

Ivory Coast keeper Alain Gouamene also wrote his name into the record books by becoming the first player to compete in seven Nations Cup finals, consecutively from 1988 onwards. Gouamene, of Toulouse, beat the record of six finals jointly held by compatriot Abdoulaye Traore, Emmanuel Kunde of Cameroon, Worku Mengistu of Ethiopia and Algerian Rabah Madjer.

The keeper also broke Kunde's record of 24 finals matches when he appeared against Ghana in what proved to be Ivory Coast's last game of the tournament.

Appearances record...Alain Gouamene

ELECTIONS

CAF president Issa Hayatou easily won re-election to his post at the confederation's congress, held before the start of the Nations Cup, and will serve a further four years at the head of African soccer. Hayatou won 47 votes to a mere four for Armando Machado, the former Angolan federation president.

The ballot was secret but insiders say the dissenting votes came from Algeria, Angola, Sao Tome e Principe and Zimbabwe, the latter still angered by the CAF decision to take the hosting of the 2000 finals away from them.

Slim Aloulou of Tunisia easily won re-election to the FIFA executive committee, beating Abderraouf El Serry of Libya, while Farah Addo became CAF first vice-president when Joab Omino of Kenya withdrew. Addo replaces Egypt's Mohamed Ahmed.

Gabon's Mackaya Temane lost his post on the CAF committee after the confederation had privately made it clear to the delegates that he had contributed little during his term of office. As a result, Adoum Djibrine, president of the Chad Football Federation, swept in.

AWARDS

Two former African Footballers of the Year, Roger Milla of Cameroon and Abdul Razak of Ghana, were given CAF's Order of Merit Silver awards ahead of the Nations Cup finals. But there was some dissent that these two fine footballers got only silver, while gold awards were given to controversial administrators such as Antonio Matarrese, the UEFA vice-president, and Gerhard Aigner, the UEFA secretary-general.

SHIFT OF POWER

The CAF Congress clapped away two of their remaining rights by approving major change to the organisation's statutes without debate.

First, delegates approved a change that strips the 51 member nations of the right to decide who gets to host the Nations Cup finals and Africa's Under-20 and Under-17 championships. CAF president Hayatou argued that it would be better if the decision was made by the executive committee, because members could inspect the possible venues beforehand and then make a more informed decision.

The congress also lost the right to vote for the two vice-presidents of the organisation. CAF proposed that this job also now be done by the executive committee, and this, too, was passed without debate.

So even more power now rests in the hands of Hayatou and his 12 committee members.

2004 NATIONS CUP

A JOINT bid from Togo and Benin was due to go up against Egypt to decide the hosts of the 2004 Nations Cup finals. But CAF disallowed both because they had not included the required government guarantees. The deadline for candidates has now been extended to May 31.

2002 NATIONS CUP

MALI has named five cities to host matches at the next Nations Cup – Bamako, Kayes, Mopti, Segou and Sikasso.

FINANCES

CAF reported a record profit of just over £1million for the two-year period ending June 1999. So, for the first time, it will be able to pass money on to the various regional sub-zones for development programmes.

According to the latest financial report, television and marketing rights for the Nations Cup and the African Champions League earned CAF some £49m.

The TV rights are owned by Groupe Darmon of Paris, while ISL have the marketing agreement.

The 16 countries in the 1998 Nations Cup finals shared a pool of £1.4m, against £2.1m for the 2000 event.

BIDDING

THE World Cup 2006 bid campaigns from England, Germany, Morocco and South Africa were all high-profile in Accra at the start of the Nations Cup.

Sir Bobby Charlton traded insults with the South Africans in the media, while Franz Beckenbauer proved an elegant but reserved figure.

Morocco made their first major impact at a major world event and put on a slick-looking campaign.

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
Ghana	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Ivory Coast	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Togo	3	1	1	1	2	3	4

Ghana scrape through

Ghana 1 Cameroon 1

What a let-off for the co-hosts! They were comprehensively outplayed in the first half, but Cameroon missed numerous easy chances.

Marc-Vivien Foe scored the first goal of the tournament, following up strongly with a header after Lauren Mayer's shot cannoned back off the crossbar. Kwame Ayew showed great skill in engineering the equaliser early in the second half, but Cameroon went away the moral victors.

Ivory Coast 1 Togo 1

A pacy start from the Ivorians, who then threw the chance of victory away in the second half. Goalkeeper Alain Gouamene became the first footballer to play in seven Nations Cup finals tournaments and his team-mate Tchiressoua Guel set up further cause for celebration when he put Ivory Coast ahead from the penalty spot in the 38th minute. But the party was ended when Lantame Ouadja equalised midway through the second half.

Ghana 2 Togo 0

Three changes to Ghana's side delivered the required result, despite Eben Dugbarthey receiving the first red card of the tournament.

Kwame Ayew scored the first goal, courtesy of a goalkeeping fumble by Kossi Agassa. Otto Addo got the second by rounding the keeper and slotting into the open net.

Togo went into the match without coach Gottlieb Goller, who stormed out of the team hotel after yet another argument with the federation's president. He never returned, leaving assistant coach Kodjovi Mawuena to take charge.

Cameroon 3 Ivory Coast 0

A classy performance from the Indomitable Lions. Raymond Kalla got a rare international goal early on, teenager Samuel Eto'o added a second after a superb square pass from Lauren Mayer, and Patrick Mboma got the third in stoppage time.

Ghana 0 Ivory Coast 2

A thrilling game, during which the Ivorians went within the width of the crossbar of knocking out Ghana.

Bonaventure Kalou showed he should have been in the starting line-up earlier in the event. He capped an inspired performance with a marvellous goal in stoppage time at the end of the first half.

Substitute Donald-Olivier Sie scored an even better second, chipping over the advancing offside trap and then springing through to finish. He also struck the crossbar as the Elephants went out, only a goal short of a remarkable comeback.

Thwarted...Togo's Tchangai shuts out Kwame Ayew of Ghana

Togo 1 Cameroon 0

Togo needed to win by three goals to advance, but having gone 1-0 up through defender Massamesso Tchangai in the 19th minute, they never looked remotely interested in achieving their objective.

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Africa	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Algeria	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
DR Congo	3	0	2	1	0	1	2
Gabon	3	0	1	2	2	6	1

Bartlett does the business

Gabon 1 South Africa 3

Gabon's 16-year-old, Chiva Nzighou, became the youngest player ever to compete in the Nations Cup finals and then, 20 minutes in, the youngest scorer too. But Bafana Bafana's strength won through, with Shaun Bartlett scoring twice and midfielder Dumisa Ngobe getting the other.

Algeria 0 DR Congo 0

Algeria had the better of the chances after mounting several quick counter-attacks, but were foiled by good goalkeeping. DR Congo called on Watford striker Michel Ngonge for the first time in almost four years. But he never tested the opposition.

DR Congo 0 South Africa 1

Bartlett got his third goal of the competition with an enterprising finish just before half-time, but South Africa had a few anxious moments before becoming the first side to qualify for the last eight.

Algeria 3 Gabon 1

Algeria ended a winless run of five matches at the Nations Cup finals with a comfortable victory over the Gabonese. Farid Ghazi showed some quick thinking to slip the ball between keeper Germain Mendome and his near post for the first goal.

A cracking drive from Abdelhafid Tasfaout settled the contest before half-time, though both sides scored a goal apiece in injury time.

DR Congo 0 Gabon 0

DR Congo had to win this by at least two goals and hope that South Africa would beat Algeria, but in the end, the Congolese were lucky to get a draw. They also had captain Kabwe Kasongo sent off. So they went home without a goal, an unwanted feat matched only by neighbours Congo.

Algeria 1 South Africa 1

The last 30 minutes were played at a pedestrian pace as both sides were content to play out a draw. Bartlett scored his 16th international goal after two minutes to tie the South African record held by Phil Masinga. Fawzi Moussouni shot Algeria's equaliser from close range early in the second half.

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Egypt	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
Senegal	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Zambia	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Burkina Faso	3	0	1	2	4	8	1

Champions still look good

Egypt 2 Zambia 0

The defending champions scored on either side of the break, with the second coming from Hossam Hassan, playing his 137th international.

Zambia's 36-year-old Kalusha Bwalya returned after a two-year gap, but could not inspire his team to trouble the Egyptian defence.

Burkina Faso 1 Senegal 3

This was a lot closer than the scoreline suggests but an early goal from Henri Camara gave the Senegalese the advantage, and a brilliant long-range free-kick from Pape Sarr ensured a 2-0 half-time lead.

Ousmane Sanou brought Burkina Faso back into the game with a goal after 65 minutes and there were several subsequent close shaves for Senegal's defence.

However, gaps in the Burkinabe's rearguard allowed Salif Keita to restore Senegal's two-goal advantage with a deflected shot four minutes from time.

Egypt 1 Senegal 0

Hossam Hassan scored for a second successive game with a brave diving header in the 39th minute against tough opposition. The goal was clouded in controversy, however, because another ball had bounced on to the pitch and a linesman had his flag up. Senegal's official protest was later turned down by the Confederation of African Football.

Burkina Faso 1 Zambia 1

A late scrambled goal from Alassane Ouedraogo gave Burkina Faso a draw after Dennis Lota had scored a brilliant early opener with an overhead kick at the near post – the best goal of the tournament.

Zambia had centre-back Elijah Litana sent off midway through the second half.

Burkina Faso 2 Egypt 4

The Burkinabe needed a handsome win to have any hope of qualifying and took a surprise two-goal lead early on.

Egypt's fight-back was started by Ahmed Salah Hosny, and Hossam Hassan equalised with a penalty, but the best goal was netted by libero Hany Ramzy, who struck brilliantly from inside the penalty area on the turn.

Senegal 2 Zambia 2

Zambia also had to win to give themselves a chance of going through but squandered many first-half chances and then went behind to a Henri Camara goal just after the interval.

Laughter Chilembi was injured in scoring the equaliser but as Zambia pushed forward for another they left gaps, one of which was successfully exploited by substitute Abdoulaye Mbaye.

Kalusha Bwalya's penalty gave Zambia a 2-2 draw, but it was not enough.

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Tunisia	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Morocco	3	1	1	1	1	2	4
Congo	3	0	1	2	0	2	1

New boy Julius sinks Morocco

Nigeria 4 Tunisia 2

Nigeria looked a little ring-rusty early on, having not fielded a full-strength team for a year, but they quickly showed their quality. Austin Okocha put his team 1-0 up just before the half-hour mark with a shot from the edge of the area. Shortly after the break, a flying header from Tunisia's Walid Azaiez silenced the 80,000 crowd, but Okocha claimed a second nine minutes later, shooting through the legs of goalkeeper Chokri El Ouaer.

Victor Ikpeba added two more goals in quick succession, though Zoubier Beya's last-minute goal brought some respectability to the scoreline for Tunisia.

Congo 0 Morocco 1

An uninspired performance from the Moroccans. Congo were expected to be the whipping boys in this extraordinarily difficult group but had the better chances and more imagination. Goalkeeper Brice Samba let them down, though, five minutes from the end, missing a cross which Mustapha Hadji headed back into the path of Salaheddine Bassir, just on as a substitute, who scored with almost his first touch.

Nigeria 0 Congo 0

A row over match fees had much to do with a go-slow by the Nigerian players and led to a near-riot outside the stadium after the game. Angry fans broke team bus windows in protest after the lacklustre showing in which Congo again had the better of the chances.

Unsurprisingly, government officials moved quickly to pay the outstanding match fees to the temperamental Nigerian squad.

Morocco 0 Tunisia 0

This drab draw put Morocco within a point of qualifying, but at a cost – a second yellow card for captain Noureddine Naybet put him out of the game to come against Nigeria.

Adil Ramzi missed the best chance of the match, shooting over the bar virtually from on the goal-line.

Nigeria 2 Morocco 0

The Super Eagles came out of their slumbers and never looked in any trouble. Finidi George struck a stunning shot from outside the penalty area just before the half-hour for the opening goal; then, nine minutes from the end, Taribo West's long pass found debutant Julius Aghahowa. He just beat the onrushing goalkeeper to the ball and the ensuing goal ensured the elimination of the Moroccans.

It also let in Tunisia, where, ironically, Aghahowa plays his club football with Esperance.

Congo 0 Tunisia 1

High drama in Kano and an incredible escape for Tunisia. Their lone-goal victory – secured by the head of giant defender Radhi Jaidi in the 18th minute – proved to be enough to see them through to the last eight, but only because the Moroccans conceded two goals against Nigeria.

Tunisia looked to have thrown it away when Imed Mehdhebi had his 84th-minute penalty saved by Brice Samba. They then had to wait six minutes after the end of their match to hear that Nigeria had done them a massive favour.

High-fliers...Hadji and El Ouaer

Patience pays off

Mike Plastow and Michi Ishijima on the treble-winning progress of the Asian club champions

Out in force...Jubilo fans make their presence felt at the J.League Championship Final

JUBILO IWATA scored a remarkable treble in 1999, winning the Asian Club Championship, Asian Super Cup and J.League championship and earning their place as Asia's representatives at the 2001 FIFA World Club Championship.

The titles rounded off a decade of determined growth for a club that was not one of the traditional giants of Japanese football but is now doing more than any to put its country's game on the map. Recently they have been doing it with an almost entirely Japanese team. Jubilo, the club of Toto Schillaci and Dunga earlier in the 1990s, completed their best season virtually without outside help.

They were founded as Yamaha Hatsudoki in 1972, seven years after Japan's first national league, and did not reach the Second Division until 1979. The club went up to the top flight the following year, won the Emperor's Cup – Japan's FA Cup – in 1982, and then took their only Japan Soccer League championship in 1987-88.

For the most part, however, Yamaha remained a mid-table team. They failed to make the cut when the J.League began with 10 teams in 1993, and instead started the new era in the new national non-professional Japan Football League (JFL), albeit with two stars of Hans Ooft's Japan national team – Masashi Nakayama, who went on to score Japan's only goal at France 98, and Mitsunori Yoshida.

The club won the first JFL title as Yamaha in 1992-93, and the following season, as Jubilo Iwata, were promoted as runners-up, joining the new professional league for its second year.

Iwata is every inch the Yamaha company town, a small city with a very big employer in the industrial belt between Tokyo and Nagoya. The name Jubilo, Portuguese and Spanish for jubilation, was chosen in the spirit of bringing joy to the city and the fans.

Ooft became the club's first J.League manager, and Schillaci arrived from Inter for the 1994 Second Stage. The Italian was the club's top scorer for three consecutive seasons, with nine goals in 1994, 31 in 1995 and 15 in 1996. Nakayama, top scorer both seasons in the JFL, did even better in 1997-98, with 18 and 36 goals respectively.

Jubilo made a steady climb to success through the 1990s. They were seventh in both stages in 1994, became an upper-mid table team in 1995-96, and finally won the Second Stage title and the championship in 1997. After being runners-up in 1998, they were champions again last year.

While Europeans such as Ooft, Schillaci and Dutch midfielder Gerald Vanenburg built the early Jubilo team, the finishing touches were applied by Brazilians. World Cup captain Dunga arrived in June 1995 and bawled so much discipline into his colleagues that at times they seemed to be playing in constant fear of his on-pitch explosions.

Luis Felipe Scolari took over at the start of the 1997 First Stage. 'Big Phil' stayed only 11 League games, but in that time Dunga credits him with having taught a new, harder professionalism to the developing squad. When Takashi Kuwahara took over, he led Jubilo to their first J.League title and Walmir Louruz carried on the work in 1998. Dunga stayed until December 1998, and by then Jubilo Iwata had become accustomed to success. With Kuwahara back in charge, 1999 was the year of the harvest, starting with the Asian Club Championship victory over Iranian side Esteghlal in front of 120,000 hostile fans in Tehran.

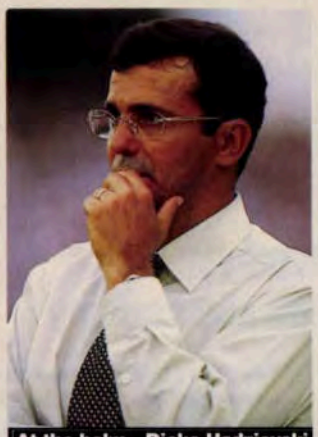
The Asian Super Cup followed with a win on away goals in the Final against Al Ittihad. Then came the J.League title, a penalty shoot-out victory over Shimizu S-Pulse after a 3-3 aggregate tie. Jubilo were up against the odds in both Finals, especially the J.League event – S-Pulse had by far the better record over the League season – but in each case professionalism saw them through.

Today, the club is the base of several of Japan's most exciting players. Internationals include defenders Hideto Suzuki, Masahiro Ando and Toshihiro Hattori, midfielders Daisuke Oku, Toshiya Fujita and Takashi Fukunishi, and strikers Nakayama and Naohiro Takahara. In terms of age the team looks balanced, ranging from veterans such as Nakayama and Masami Ihara, Japan's most-capped player signed from Yokohama F Marinos, to rising stars such as Olympic striker Takahara.

Jubilo revert to a European coach for the 2000 season – former Macedonia manager Djoko Hadzievski – and face an early start, defending the first leg of their treble in the quarter-final round of the 1999-2000 Asian Club Championship in Kagoshima against Kashima Antlers, Suwon Bluewings (South Korea) and Sinthana (Thailand).

Then comes the curtain-raiser to the new J.League season, against Emperor's Cup winners Nagoya Grampus Eight in the Xerox Super Cup on March 4.

Jubilation...yet more silverware


At the helm...Djoko Hadzievski

GOALKEEPERS

Yushi OZAKI
24.03.69.
With Yamaha, then Jubilo, since 1987, finally becoming first choice last year.

Tomoaki OGAMI
07.06.70.
Jubilo's regular keeper in 1997-98. Named in J.League's best XI in 1997.

DEFENDERS

Hideto SUZUKI
07.10.74.
Defender or defensive midfielder. Member of 1996 Atlanta Olympic team. 1 cap.

Masami IHARA
18.09.67.
Record 123 caps for Japan. Transferred from Yokohama F Marinos this season.

Makoto TANAKA
08.08.75.
Central defender long viewed as a successor to Ihara in the national team, but plagued by injury last year.

Toshihiro HATTORI
23.09.73.
Key member of the current Japan team. Utility defender or midfielder with 14 caps.

Takahiro YAMANISHI
02.04.76.
Exciting wing-back with national team prospects.

Masahiro ANDO
02.04.72.
Wing-back signed from Shimizu S-Pulse last season. 1 cap.

Jo KANAZAWA
09.07.76.
Made his debut last year and now a reliable option at the back.

MIDFIELDERS

Fumitake MIURA
12.08.70.
Former Marinos veteran signed late last season from Kyoto Purple Sanga. Creative attacking midfielder who made a big contribution in the title race.

Daisuke OKU
07.02.76.
Another key figure in Troussier's national team. Can play any position from rear midfield to striker. Makes up for lack of height with grit, running and strong ball skills. 9 caps.

Toshiya FUJITA
04.10.71.
Gifted attacking midfielder, excellent on the ball. 11 caps.

Kiyokazu KUDO
21.06.74.
Always dangerous, the source of many scoring chances.

Takashi FUKUNISHI
01.09.76.
Learned a lot from Dunga. Powerful header, he was the only Jubilo player named in the League's best XI last year. 3 caps.

Goal machine...Masashi Nakayama

Yasushi KITA
25.04.78.
Strongly built, fast maturing utility player.

Norihiro NISHI
09.05.80.
Small but increasingly important as a creative option.

Roberto TORRES (Par)
06.04.72.
Paraguayan signed from O'Higgins in Chile.

FORWARDS

Masashi NAKAYAMA
23.09.67. Joined Yamaha in 1990 from Tsukuba University, where he played with Ihara. Jubilo's top striker of the 1990s, he scored the key goals in last year's treble success. Still in the national team. 36 caps.

Nobuo KAWAGUCHI
10.04.75. Promising striker with a good nose for goal.

Naohiro TAKAHARA
04.06.79. Quick, strong striker with a powerful shot. Key member of current Olympic team. First called up to the senior team for the Asian Cup qualifiers in February. 3 caps.

Dimitri RADCHENKO (Rus)
02.12.70. Russian signed for the Second Stage last year but made few appearances.

On the ball...Toshiya Fujita is the Jubilo playmaker who weighs in with his fair share of goals

The men who matter

Zinedine Zidane

Dominique Antognoni talks to the French playmaker, whose return to form bodes well for club and country

WORLD SOCCER: Is there a reason for your current brilliant form?
ZINEDINE ZIDANE: Yes, I think it's because I'm feeling relaxed and happy. And with a team like this, you really do want to win, to get the ball at your feet.

Eighteen months ago, after the World Cup, I was looking to be a little more detached, but it looks as though I was a little too detached. I was a bit jaded, there wasn't much to stimulate me. Reading some of the things that were written about me did me no good at all, either.

What was the turning point?
It was the goal I scored at the Olimpico against Roma – the penalty. It was exactly eight months since I had scored.

The goal against Reggina made the headlines around the world.
Yes, but remember that, years ago, when I played with Bordeaux, I scored a similar goal against Real Betis in the UEFA Cup, only I didn't have the same following in those days. Let's just say that these days, when I score for Juventus, it's a very different matter.

How is your knee?
Much, much better. I still suffer a little pain, but I have learned to live with that. In general I am in better physical condition than ever before.

Have you sorted out your marital problems?
I'm never again going to make the mistake of talking about my family life. It's not important for people to know about a player's private life – all that matters to a player is to think about football. I'm at Juventus, one of the world's top clubs, and that's all that counts.

Your coach, Carlo Ancelotti, and others have said that if Zidane plays well, the whole Juventus squad follows suit...
One player alone cannot make a team win. I know that I am important to the Juve side, but for that very reason it's vital that I prove this again and again. The more crucial the player, the more you have to prove it. I've never considered myself the world's greatest player, but I would do anything to achieve that status. To tell you the truth, it's more important to me to be happy with my performance at the end of each game.

Ancelotti has created a slightly different role for you.
Yes, I now go deeper more often, and sometimes I am a pure midfield player.

He speaks extremely highly of you, but you never cease praising Marcello Lippi.
How could I not? He has been the

Pulling the strings...Rui Costa

Rui Costa

Nick Bidwell on an artist with

PORTUGUESE playmaker Rui Costa sees the forthcoming European Championship as an ideal opportunity to muzzle those critics who regard football in his country as a second-rate affair.

Benfica's German coach Jupp Heynckes recently described the state of play in the Portuguese championship as weak, while his predecessor at the club, Graeme Souness, has written off Portugal's chances at Euro 2000, arguing that the team have no strikers and that their only threat comes from star midfielders Rui Costa and Figo.

But Rui Costa believes the criticism can serve a useful purpose. "Nobody likes being written off," he says. "The game in Portugal is far more competitive than some seem to think. The best way to answer such talk is out on the pitch. These sort of attacks will only make us more determined to rally round and perform well in Holland and Belgium. It will not be enough to impress people with our passing and movement. Good results are what matter.

"A Euro 2000 group with Germany, Romania, England and us is a closely-matched one. But I, for one, am sure of our ability to have a good tournament. We have lots going for us in Portugal.

"Many of our players are with top clubs in Europe, the guys at FC Porto have been doing extremely well in the Champions League, we have a good crop of kids coming through and in the national team we have a spirit and togetherness which is second to none."

Rui Costa knows from bitter

Revived...Zinedine Zidane

most important coach of my career. He always gave me the will to win. I don't know how, but he managed to communicate to me extremely positive things.

He wanted you to go to Inter with him...
I know, but I'm doing fine here. Who knows what will happen in the future, though.

Your team-mates say you are always the leader in the dressing-room.
Well, if they say so, it must be true. When I first arrived in Turin, it was difficult for me to communicate. I couldn't find the right words. Now it's different, and I can make myself heard. I'm in my fourth year at Juve and I feel very much at home.

Juventus were the winter champions. Did they deserve that, in your opinion?
Very much so, even though Lazio have done great things. I'm really excited by our team – we have returned to being the very best. It's a great feeling.

When and where did the turnaround come?
At Lecce, where we lost 2-0 – we'd played very badly. We took a look at ourselves – we didn't want another season like the one we'd just had.

So what's the secret ingredient in this revived side?
It's no secret – we're just relaxed and happy and glad to have found our true spirit again.

Your greatest achievement is winning the World Cup, but what would you say has been the biggest let-down?
I think it was the Champions League Final against Borussia Dortmund. But also losing to Real [in 1998], and the semi-final against Manchester United [1999], after having gone 2-0 up.

What are your thoughts on the Euro 2000 championship?
Our group is a tough one, but it's not impossible. Holland are the favourites, but we are the world champions and we have to go out and prove it. The toughest group is England and Germany's.

a heavy load

experience how a few careless words can damage harmony in the ranks. After all, he provoked a storm at Euro 96 when he suggested that Portugal could be world-beaters if they possessed a natural goalscorer of the calibre of his Fiorentina team-mate Gabriel Batistuta.

Although it was a valid point to stress Portugal's need to convert a much higher percentage of their chances, it did nothing for morale in the camp and the then national coach, Antonio Oliveira, was furious with Rui Costa's implied dig at forwards Joao Pinto, Sa Pinto and Domingos.

"If Rui Costa isn't happy or if he's missing Batistuta, he only has to apply to be an Argentine citizen," roared Oliveira.

His Euro 96 gaffe, however, is a rare example of Rui Costa letting the side down. For almost all his seven-year international career, he has proved the perfect team man, combining his intelligent probing, mazy trademark dribbles and goals – he scored six times in the Euro 2000 qualifiers – with a high workrate and lots of mobility.

Rui Costa, almost 28, is at his most dangerous when operating just behind the central strikers or taking on defenders on the left flank. He is one of the last classic playmakers in European football, and will be absolutely crucial to his country at Euro 2000.

"In Rui Costa and his acceleration, ability to dribble and vision, Portugal have a creator of the highest order," declares Eusebio, perhaps Portugal's greatest-ever player.

"But he must not play too deep. It's vital he is on the shoulder of the strikers. There he can wreak havoc."

A concern for the Portuguese is that Rui Costa is not enjoying the best of times at club level.

"This has been a poor season for Fiorentina in Serie A, especially away from home," the player admits. "Maybe we are paying for all our efforts and success in the Champions League. It's not an excuse, but it's very hard to keep it together in all competitions when you have such a hectic schedule.

"My confidence in my own ability hasn't been affected. I have a lot of responsibility in the Portuguese side and I will be ready for the challenge of Euro 2000.

With Rui Costa dexterously pulling the midfield strings, Portugal should be a good bet to win the style wars at Euro 2000. But until they find more physical presence and a sharper cutting edge at the point of attack, that will be the long and the short of their achievements.

Fact file

Country Portugal
Club Fiorentina (Ita)
Born March 29, 1972, in Lisbon
Previous clubs Fafe, Benfica
International debut March 1993, v Switzerland
International caps 48 (17 goals)
Honours Portuguese Cup 1993; Portuguese League 1994; Italian Cup 1996

The men who matter

Tayfur Havutcu

Hasan Cemali on a versatile Turk who gives his country an extra dimension

RECENT months have seen Tayfur Havutcu showing the best form of his career. The versatile 30-year-old Besiktas player has fitted perfectly into national coach Mustafa Denizli's ideal of having a team of individuals who can slot into variety of positions.

Tayfur went to Germany as a boy and began his career with Darmstad. He returned to Istanbul in 1993 and played for Fenerbahce for two years under German coach Holger Osieck.

When Osieck left for Kocaelispor he took Tayfur with him, but after two years Besiktas stepped in to sign him.

Since then Tayfur has been the club's outstanding player, nicknamed "The Icebox" by former manager John Toshack because of his cool head and professional attitude.

He was used all across midfield, and showed himself to be a great organiser, strong in the tackle and an accurate passer, but he also excelled in a supporting role behind the forwards.

Tayfur has been regularly selected by Denizli and repaid the coach's faith with some outstanding performances in the qualifiers for Euro 2000.

His late penalty earned Turkey a 1-1 draw in the play-off against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin; then Tayfur inspired his team to secure a place in the finals thanks to a goalless draw in the return in Bursa. Earlier, in the away game against Finland, when Turkey were 2-0 down, Tayfur scored two vital goals to lead them to a 4-2 victory.

Tayfur believes that as he nears 30 he is not too old for international football, and will play as long as Denizli needs him. He knows that experience plays a vital role.

He made his international debut in 1994 under previous coach, Fatih Terim, but was virtually ignored for almost two years before Denizli called him back to duty.

"Since then I have become a regular," says Tayfur. "Denizli prefers me because I can keep cool and work hard – qualities he likes."

The coach was grateful for Tayfur's cool head against the Finns in Helsinki, although the player admits: "When we were 2-0 behind I yelled at my team-mates: 'We've got to win this one.' Fortunately, they took notice of me!

"In all I scored five goals during the qualifying games, which gave me one more than our top striker, Hakan Sukur. The way the goals were shared shows that Denizli is a clever tactician. Hakan is always tightly marked by at least two defenders, so it's difficult for him to produce goals, but the coach allows me to go forward and act as a surprise striker.

"He also has some other surprises, like Arif, who scored three against Northern Ireland.

"Denizli is a motivator. He knows the capacity of his squad, and insists on harmony among the players."

Tayfur is full of admiration for team-mates such as Sergen Yalcin, Tugay Kerimoglu and veteran goalkeeper Engin Ipekoglu, all of

Lethal weapon...Romania rely on Adrian Ilie's sharpshooting

Adrian Ilie

The Cobra needs to strike

ROMANIA will be banking heavily on Adrian Ilie, the front-man dubbed 'The Cobra', to strike often and with venom at Euro 2000.

The Romanians, who emerged undefeated from qualifying Group 7, certainly have a number of factors in their favour: the extensive know-how if not the legs of 35-year-old playmaker Gheorghe Hagi – recently voted the country's Player of the Century – a solid defensive unit which conceded only three goals en route to the finals, the midfield craft of Constantin Galca and Dorinel Munteanu, and the under-rated front-running of Viorel Moldovan.

But above all else, Ilie has to come good this summer if Romania are to live up to new national team coach Emerich Jenei's view that they are genuine contenders for the title.

Ilie is an explosive forward blessed with a winning combination of finesse, pace and elegance.

He is still only 25, now plays in Spain for Valencia, was his nation's top scorer en route to the finals with six goals, and knows that more of the same sharpshooting will be a pre-requisite for any decent Romanian campaign at the European Championship.

"Adrian Ilie may not be the oldest, most experienced player in the Romanian team, but right now he must be the most talented," says former national team goalkeeper Silviu Lung, who played at Ilie's first club, Electroputere Craiova. "He is

Surprise packet...Tayfur eclipsed Hakan Sukur in the goal chart

whom have been restored under Denizli when their international careers seemed to be over.

"The coach knew they were quality players, and since he took over they have proved themselves again," he says. "Sergen, in particular, played superbly against Germany in the last qualifying game and against the Republic of Ireland in Bursa."

Denizli, however, recently announced that he will be calling up some new faces as well. In particular, he needs players who can last the full 90 minutes.

His likely choices include Ahmet Dursun, the 22-year-old Besiktas striker who has scored 12 goals so far this season, and Galatasaray midfield dynamo Emre Belezoglu.

There is also a surprise name from England – Leicester midfielder Muzzy Izzet, who has opted to play for his father's homeland rather than hope for a call-up from Kevin Keegan.

"This shows that there will be fierce challenges, particularly among the midfielders, to win the national shirt," says Tayfur.

"We have tough opponents in our European group, but that was only to be expected. Italy are one, and I rate them as the championship favourites. Everyone knows they have a habit of starting badly but somehow they often manage to reach tournament finals. But we won't be timid against them.

"Turkish clubs have had some good results against Italian teams this season – Galatasaray eliminated Bologna from the UEFA Cup and Trabzonspor beat Perugia in the InterToto Cup – and there will be a lot of pressure on the Italian national team.

"We have some old scores to settle with Belgium. We failed to qualify for the last World Cup finals because we lost to them twice. Now they have home advantage as co-hosts with Holland, and it is going to be a very tough match.

"Sweden cannot be underestimated, either. They are very strong physically. But we have talented players who can match them.

"Getting past the first round will not be easy, but I'm confident that we can do it. And after that..."

Fact file

Country Turkey
Club Besiktas
Born April 23, 1970
Previous clubs Darmstad (Ger), Fenerbahce, Kocaelispor
International debut August 1994, v Macedonia
International caps 21 (5 goals)
Honours Turkish Cup 1997 (Kocaelispor); President's Cup 1997

often, says Nick Bidwell

Romania's match-winner, the forward who can swing a game your way with a single moment of brilliance in open play or from a free-kick.

"Even as a teenager, he looked like a future international star. Defenders were always struggling against his speed and trickery, and I know from first-hand experience on the training ground how lethal he was in a one-on-one situation with the keeper.

"Of course, Romania are no one-man team. But a top-quality striker can make a huge difference and if Ilie is at his best at Euro 2000, our national team can go a long way."

Ilie already has proved that he is not one to be overawed on the international tournament stage. Although not an automatic choice for his country at Euro 96 – he went on as a substitute in two games and started another – he showed some nice touches in a Romanian side who deserved better than three defeats in three first-round matches. Two years later, at France 98, he was one of the most outstanding players on show.

No Romanian had a better World Cup than Ilie. He scored a wonderful solo goal against Colombia, ran the English back-line ragged and hit the bar with a delightful chip, and set up Romania's equaliser in the draw with Tunisia.

"We were very disappointed not to go further than the last 16 in France," says Ilie. "We played well to beat Colombia and England and were confident of beating Croatia in the second round. We were a better team than the Croats, but for whatever reason we never found our rhythm in that game and lost to a penalty which shouldn't have been awarded. We'll have to be a lot more consistent at Euro 2000.

"The draw makes me optimistic. It's encouraging that we've had good results against all our first round opponents in the last couple of years; we won and drew with Portugal in the Euro 2000 qualifiers, beat England at France 98 and drew with Germany in a friendly last season.

"I'm confident but not complacent that we'll make the quarter-finals."

Fact file

Country Romania
Club Valencia (Spa)
Born April 28, 1974, in Craiova
Previous clubs Electroputere Craiova, Steaua Bucharest, Galatasaray (Tur)
International debut September 1993, v Israel
International caps 33 (11 goals)
Honours Romanian League 1994, 1995, 1996; Romanian Cup 1996; Turkish League 1997; Spanish Cup 1999

Zenden gives Holland a lift

FRIENDLIES ROUND-UP

On the run...Germany's Jeremies gets away from Davids of Holland

BOUDEWIJN ZENDEN fired Holland to their first victory since October 1998, scoring the winner in the February 23 friendly against Germany at the Amsterdam Arena. He also made Holland's first goal in the 2-1 win, setting up Patrick Kluivert. Christian Ziege scored for Germany.

Lothar Matthaus, on his world record 144th appearance for Germany, did little of note. Earning their first caps were Wolfsburg's Zoltan Sebescen and Hertha's Sebastian Deisler, who replaced him. Deisler had pulled out of three previous Germany squads through injury.

Several other Euro 2000 finalists were in action on the same night. Norway beat a rugged Turkey side 2-0 in Istanbul, with teenager John Arne Riise scoring in the first half, Roar Strand getting the second late on. Besiktas keeper Fevzi Tuncay won his first cap for Turkey, as did Besiktas forward Ahmet Dursun and Galatasaray midfielder Emre Belozoglu, who came on as substitutes.

Zinedine Zidane scored two minutes from time to give France a 1-0 win over Poland in Paris, while Belgium were held 1-1 by Portugal in Charleroi. Substitute Ricardo Sa Pinto equalised near the end after Branko Strupar had put Belgium in front. New caps were Sporting Lisbon's Jose Luis Vidigal for Portugal and Standard Liege forward Michael Goossens for Belgium.

An injury-depleted Spain drew 0-0 against Croatia in Split, thanks mostly to keeper Jose Francisco Molina. Valladolid forward Victor Fernandez made his first appearance for Spain as a substitute but could not break the deadlock.

Two Predrag Mijatovic goals gave Yugoslavia a 2-1 win over Macedonia in Skopje, while the Czech Republic led twice but lost 3-2 to the Republic of Ireland in Dublin. Jan Koller scored both Czech goals; Sparta Prague midfielder Tomas Rosicky won his first cap.

Emile Heskey was the most impressive performer for England in their 0-0 draw with Argentina at Wembley.

In Oman, Slovenia beat their hosts 4-0, with two goals coming from Zlatko Zahovic, the others from Miran Pavlin and Milenko Acimovic.

The most significant information to be gleaned from Italy's 1-0 friendly win against Sweden in Palermo came the day before the match. Coach Dino Zoff sprang a surprise when saying that Roma's Francesco Totti was not yet ready to be the playmaker in the team. He was dropped in favour of Udinese's international debutant, Stefano Fiore.

An Alessandro Del Piero penalty settled the match.

OTHER NEWS

FRANCE midfielder Alain Boghossian will miss the finals after damaging cruciate knee ligaments.

The 12 European referees who will officiate at the finals are as follows: Gunter Benko (Aut); Pierluigi Collina (Ita); Hugh Dallas (Sco); Anders Frisk (Swe); Jose Maria Garcia Aranda (Spa); Dick Jol (Hol); Urs Meier (Swi); Vitor Manuel Melo Pereira (Por); Markus Merk (Ger); Kim Milton Nielsen (Den); Graham Poll (Eng); Gilles Veissiere (Fra). There will also be one African referee at the tournament.

WARM-UP SCHEDULE

BELGIUM
HOLLAND (Mar 29, Brussels); **NORWAY** (Apr 26, Oslo); **DENMARK** (June 3, Copenhagen)

CZECH REPUBLIC
AUSTRALIA (Mar 29, Prague)

DENMARK
PORTUGAL (Mar 29, Lisbon); **SWEDEN** (Apr 26, Copenhagen); **BELGIUM** (June 3, Copenhagen)

ENGLAND
BRAZIL (May 27, Wembley); **UKRAINE** (May 31, Wembley); **MALTA** (June 3, La Valletta)

FRANCE
SCOTLAND (Mar 29, Glasgow); **SLOVENIA** (Apr 26, Saint-Denis); **CROATIA** (May 28, Zagreb); **JAPAN** (June 4, Casablanca); **KING HASSAN II TNMT FINAL OR 3RD PLACE MATCH** (June 6, Casablanca)

GERMANY
CROATIA (Mar 29, Zagreb); **SWITZERLAND** (Apr 26, Kaiserslautern); **REAL MALLORCA** (May 30, Palma); **LIECHTENSTEIN** (June 3, Freiburg)

HOLLAND
BELGIUM (Mar 29, Brussels); **SCOTLAND** (Apr 26, Arnhem); **ROMANIA** (May 27, Amsterdam); **POLAND** (June 4, venue tba)

ITALY
SPAIN (Mar 29, Barcelona); **PORTUGAL** (Apr 26, venue tba); **NORWAY** (June 3, Oslo)

NORWAY
SWITZERLAND (Mar 29, Lugano); **BELGIUM** (Apr 26, Oslo); **SLOVAKIA** (May 27, Oslo); **ITALY** (June 3, Oslo)

PORTUGAL
DENMARK (Mar 29, Lisbon); **ITALY** (Apr 26, venue tba)

ROMANIA
GREECE (Mar 29, Bucharest); **HOLLAND** (May 27, Amsterdam); **GREECE** (June 3, Bucharest)

SLOVENIA
FRANCE (Apr 26, Saint-Denis); **LUXEMBOURG** (June 3, Luxembourg)

SPAIN
ITALY (Mar 29, Barcelona); **SWEDEN** (June 3, Gothenburg); **LUXEMBOURG** (June 7, Luxembourg)

SWEDEN
AUSTRIA (Mar 29, Graz); **DENMARK** (Apr 26, Copenhagen); **SPAIN** (June 3, Gothenburg)

TURKEY
YUGOSLAVIA (Apr 26, venue tba)

YUGOSLAVIA
CHINA (Mar 28, Belgrade); **TURKEY** (Apr 26, venue tba)

tba = to be announced

APRIL 2000

THE NO.1 INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

WORLD SERVICE

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE MONTH'S STATS & FACTS

INTERNATIONALS

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP 2000

FIRST ROUND

Group A

Jan 22 - Accra
Ghana 1 (Ayew 57)
Cameroon 1 (Foe 20)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Ali Bujsaim (UAE)
Ghana: Kingston, S Kuffour, Baidoo, Gargo (Edusei, 55), Nyarko, Ahinful (Ofori-Quaye 36), Akonnor, Gyan, Johnson, Ayew, O Addo (Appiah 67).
Cameroon: Alioum, Mayer, Song, Kalla, Wome, Njanka, Njitap, Foe, Olembe (Mettomo 81), Job (N'Diefi 64), Mboma (Eto'o 80).

Jan 24 - Accra
Ivory Coast 1 (Guei pen 38)
Togo 1 (Ouadja 62)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 13,000
Ivory Coast: Gouamene, Zere, Diabate, Die, Kone, Angan, Kalou (Dago 84), Domoraud, Bakayoko (Diallo 76), Guel, Sie (Badra 73).
Togo: Agassa, Amatekodo (Atsou 46), Tchangai, Abalo, Senaya, Aziawonou (Assignon 36), Salou, Ouadja, Maman-Toure, Coubadja, Fiawoo (Oyawole 46).

Jan 27 - Accra
Ghana 2 (Ayew 28, O Addo 37)
Togo 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 30,000
Ghana: Kingston; Gyan (Baidoo 81), Johnson, S Kuffour, Dugbarthey; Edusei, O Addo (D Addo 88), Nyarko, Akonnor; Ayew, Preko (E Kuffour 69). *Sent off: Dugbarthey 64mins.*
Togo: Agassa; Atsou (Dote 84), Abalo, T Salou, Tchangai, Senaya; Assignon, Ouadja, Maman-Toure; Fiawoo (Oyawole 48), Coubadja.

Jan 28 - Accra
Cameroon 3 (Kalla 29, Eto'o 45, Mboma 90)
Ivory Coast 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,000
Cameroon: Alioum; Njanka, Kalla, Song, Wome; Njitap (Ndo 65), Mayer, Foe, Olembe (Hamga 59); Eto'o (N'Diefi 46), Mboma.
Ivory Coast: Gouamene; Tebily, Domoraud, Abouo; Dao (Kone 46), Diabate (Die 73), Badra, Guel, Sie; Dago (Kalou 62), Bakayoko.

Jan 31 - Accra
Ghana 0
Ivory Coast 2 (Kalou 45, Sie 84)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000
Ghana: Kingston; S Kuffour, Johnson, Baidoo, E Kuffour (Gargo 61); Edusei, O Addo (Preko 78), Nyarko, Akonnor; Ayew, Ahinful (Ofori-Quaye 60).
Ivory Coast: Gouamene; Tebily, Akassou, Abouo; Kone (Koffi 90), Die, Badra, Guel, Kalou; Diallo (Bakayoko 72), Zoko (Sie 67).

Jan 31 - Kumasi
Cameroon 0
Togo 1 (Tchangai 19)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Olufunmi (Nig)
Cameroon: Alioum, Song, Mettomo, Njanka, Hamga (Olembe 62), Njitap, Mayer, Foe, Mboma, Mahouve, Job (Tchoutang 46).
Togo: Agassa, Senaya, Tchangai, Abalo, Aziawonou, Assignon, Salou, Ouadja, Oyawole, Maman-Toure (Akakpo 80), Coubadja.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
Ghana	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Ivory Coast	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Togo	3	1	1	1	2	3	4

Group B

Jan 23 - Kumasi
Gabon 1 (Nzighou 20)
South Africa 3 (Ngobe 42, Bartlett 54, 77)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 20,000
Gabon: Deckousshoud; Nzeng, Mouyouma, Amegasse, Endo; Ogandaga, Nzighou, Mbanangoye, Londo (Nsi-Akue 61); T Nguema, Cousin.
South Africa: Arendse, Radebe, Fish, Issa; Fortune (Lekoelea 74), Moshoeu, Mkhalele, Ngobe, Tinkler; Bartlett, Nomvete (Ndlanya 80).

Jan 24 - Kumasi
Algeria 0
DR Congo 0
Att: 7,000. **Ref:** Duarte
Algeria: Benabdellah, Mamouni (Slatni 79), Benhamlat, Amrouche, Meftah; Kraouche, Dziri, Saifi (Tasfaout 70), Saib; Ghazi, Moussouni (Mezouar 63).
DR Congo: Mayala; K Kasongo, Yuvuladio, Bakasu, Mukando; Mamale (Kifu 88), Mangituka, Dinzey, Nsilulu (Mbabu 63); JB Kasongo, Ngonge.

Jan 27 - Kumasi
DR Congo 0
South Africa 1 (Bartlett 44)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,500. **Ref:** Olufumi (Nig)
DR Congo: Mayala, K Kasongo, Yuvuladio, Bakasu, Mukando, Kibwey (Yemwewi 53), Mangituka (Bageta 67), Dinzey, Nsilulu, JB Kasongo, Ngonge.
South Africa: Arendse, Radebe, Fish, Issa; Fortune, Moshoeu (Bapela 10), Mkhalele, Ngobe, Tinkler; Bartlett (Ndlanya 86), Nomvete.

Jan 29 - Kumasi
Gabon 1 (Mbanangoye 89)
Algeria 3 (Ghazi 12, Tasfaout 41, Dziri 89)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 5,000
Gabon: Mendome, Mouloungui (Mbanangoye 45), Nzeng, Mouyouma, Amegasse, Endo, Ogandaga, Nzighou (Nsi-Akue 32), C Nguema, T Nguema, Cousin (Antchouet 60). *Sent off: Endo 27mins.*
Algeria: Benabdellah, Mamouni, Benhamlat, Amrouche, Meftah, Kraouche (Haddou 66), Dziri, Ghazi (Saifi 77), Saib, Tasfaout, Moussouni (Mezouar 66).

Feb 2 - Accra
Gabon 0
DR Congo 0
Att: 2,000. **Ref:** El Arjoune (Mor)
Gabon: Mendome; Mouyouma, C Nguema, Nsi-Akue, Moubamba; Mombo, Ogandaga (Ossey 67), Mbanangoye, Londo (Cousin 77); T Nguema, Nzighou.
DR Congo: Mayala; K Kasongo, Yuvuladio (Bageta 82), Bakasu, Dinzey; Mukando, Mangituka, Bazamba, Kifu; Yemwewi (Nsilulu 72), JB Kasongo (Mbungu 59). *Sent off: K Kasongo 64mins.*

Feb 2 - Kumasi
Algeria 1 (Moussouni 52)
South Africa 1 (Bartlett 2)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Hailemalak (Eth)
Algeria: Benabdellah; Mamouni, Benhamlat, Amrouche, Meftah, Kraouche, Dziri, Saib, Ghazi, Tasfaout, Moussouni (Haddou 57).
South Africa: Vonk; Radebe, Fish, Issa, Tinkler (Khomane 60), Ngobe, Mkhalele, Mngomeni (Bapela 46), Fortune (Lekoelea 46), Bartlett, Salmon.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Africa	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Algeria	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
DR Congo	3	0	2	1	0	1	2
Gabon	3	0	1	2	2	6	1

Group C

Jan 23 - Kano
Egypt 2 (Radwan 36, H Hassan 50)
Zambia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Coffi (Ben)
Egypt: N El Sayed, I Hassan, Omara, Khashaba, El Saqqa, Radwan (A Hassan 79), T Al-Said, I Said, Abdelaziz, H Hassan, Hosny (Ali 87).
Zambia: Phiri, Chilembi, Litana, Sichone, Tana, Mwanza, Lota, Bwalya, A Tembo, Sinkala, Miti.

Jan 25 - Kano
Burkina Faso 1 (Sanou 65)
Senegal 3 (Camara 4, Sarr 45, Keita 85)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Shelami (Lby)
Burkina Faso: S Traore; Cisse, Sanogo, Korbeogo, Koudou, Zongo, Sanou, Liande-Gnoka, (O Traore 52), R Ouedraogo (Barro 60), Kere, A Traore.
Senegal: Diallo, Daf, PM Diop, Camara, Badji, A Ndiaye, Faidga (Keita 62), O Diop, (Fall 71), Ba, Sarr, Faye.

Jan 28 - Kano
Egypt 1 (H Hassan 39)
Senegal 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Mathabela (SAf)
Egypt: N El Sayed; I Hassan, Omara, El Saqqa, Radwan, T Al-Said (Ramzy 71), I Said, Khashaba, Abdelaziz, H Hassan, Hosny (Farouk 26; Emam 85).
Senegal: Diallo; Daf, PM Diop, A Ndiaye, Fall, Ba, Camara, O Diop (M Ndiaye 78), Sarr (Traore 72), Fadiga, Faye (Keita 63).

Jan 29 - Kano
Zambia 1 (Lota 16)
Burkina Faso 1 (A Ouedraogo 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Shelami (Lby)
Zambia: Phiri; Litana, Sichone, Tana; Chilembi, Mwanza, Bwalya, A Tembo, Sinkala; Makufi (Mutapa 88), Lota (Numba 71). *Sent off: Litana.*
Burkina Faso: Soulama; Sanogo, Dossama, Korbeogo; Liande-Gnoka (B Traore 28), O Traore; Koudou, Fall, Kere (A Ouedraogo 46); Sanou (Barro 73), Zongo.

Feb 1 - Kano
Egypt 4 (Hosny 29, H Hassan 73, Ramzy 84, Ali 89)
Burkina Faso 2 (Koudou 9, Sanou 24)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Mounguengui (Gab)
Egypt: N El Sayed; Omara, Ramzy I Said; A Hassan (T Al-Said 74), Khashaba, Sabry (Hafiz 60), Abdel Moneim, Emam; H Hassan, Hosny (Ali 71).
Burkina Faso: Soulama; Sanogo, Dossama, Korbeogo, O Traore; Koudou (S Traore 74), Kone (Fall 59), B Traore, Kere; Zongo, Sanou (Alassane 71).

Feb 1 - Lagos
Senegal 2 (Camara 47, Mbaye 80)
Zambia 2 (Chilembi 52, Bwalya pen 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Quartey (Gha)
Senegal: Diallo, Traore, A Ndiaye, PM Diop, O Diop, Fall, Ba, Sarr (Badji 46), Camara, Fadiga (Toure 70), Keita (Mbaye 57).
Zambia: Misichili, Chilembi, Sichone, Tana, Mwewa, Mwanza, A Tembo (Kilambe 70), Sinkala, Lota (Miti 69), Bwalya, Makufi (Mumaba 63).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Egypt	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
Senegal	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Zambia	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Burkina Faso	3	0	1	2	4	8	1

Group D

Jan 23 - Lagos
Nigeria 4 (Okocha 29, 57, Ikpeba 68, 74)
Tunisia 2 (Azaiez 48, Beya 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)
Nigeria: Shoronmu; Okunowo, Babayaro, Kanu, Iyenemi, West, George (Akwuegbu), Okocha, Lawal (Babangida), Oliseh, Ikpeba (Amunike).
Tunisia: El Ouaer; Badra (Mogaadi 60), S Trabelsi, Boukadida (Azaiez 46), Beya, Ghodhbane, Sellimi, Chihi, Jaidi, Thabet, Jaziri (Mehdhebi 46)

Jan 25 - Lagos
Morocco 1 (Bassir 85)
Congo 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Quartey (Gha)
Morocco: Fouhami, Saber, Neqrouz, Naybet, El Khalej (Benmahmoud 76), Mariana, Hadji, Chiba, Hadda (Bassir 83), Bahja (Ramzi 76), Chippo.
Congo: Samba, Diamesso, Oponga, Service, Tchimbakala, Nkeoua, Moyimbouabeka, Embingou (Bokatola-Lossombo 77), Guie-Mien, Ewolo, Younga-Mouhani (Eta 84).

Jan 28 - Lagos
Nigeria 0
Congo 0
Att: 60,000. **Ref:** Tangawarima (Zim)
Nigeria: Shorunmu; Okunowo, Babayaro, Iyenemi, West; Oliseh, George, Okocha, Lawal (Babangida 56); Ikpeba (Akwuegbu 61), Kanu.
Congo: Samba; Diamesso, Oponga, Service, Tchimbakala; Nkeoua, Moyimbouabeka, Bokatola-Lossombo (Embingou 82), Guie-Mien (Mackaya 35), Ewolo, Younga-Mouhani.

Jan 29 - Lagos
Morocco 0
Tunisia 0
Att: 5,000. **Ref:** Falla (Sen)
Morocco: Fouhami; Saber, El Hadrioui, Naybet, El Khalej, Hadji (Kachloul 88), Chiba, Ramzi (Bassir 67), Chippo (Benmahmoud 11), Hadda, Sellimi.
Tunisia: El Ouaer; Badra, S Trabelsi, Jaidi, Thabet (Kanzari 72), Beya, Chihi, Gabsi, Sellimi, Jaziri (Zitouni 80), Azaiez (Boukadida 81).

Feb 3 - Lagos
Nigeria 2 (George 28, Aghahowa 81)
Morocco 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Ali Bujsaim (UAE)
Nigeria: Shorunmu; Okpara, Iyenemi (Okunowo 46), West, Babayaro; Babangida, Adepoju (Lawal 77), Okocha, Akwuegbu (Aghahowa 46); George, Kanu.
Morocco: Fouhami; Neqrouz, Sellami, Abrami; Saber, Chiba, El Khalej (Benmahmoud 77), Mariani, Hadji; Bahja (Ramzi 70), Bassir (El Badraoui 45).

Feb 3 - Kano
Congo 0
Tunisia 1 (Jaidi 18)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Coffi (Ben)
Congo: Samba; Diamesso, Ntounou, Service, Tchimbakala, Nkeoua, Oponga, Moyimbouabeka, Bokatola-Lossombo (Eta 73), Ewolo, Nanitelamio.
Tunisia: El Ouaer; Badra, S Trabelsi, Jaidi, Thabet, Bouzayane (Mehdhebi 77), Chihi, Kanzari (Beya 81), Gabsi, Zitouni, Sellimi (Jaziri 64).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Tunisia	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Morocco	3	1	1	1	1	2	4
Congo	3	0	1	2	0	2	1

QUARTER-FINALS

Feb 6 - Accra
Cameroon 2 (Eto'o 8, Foe 24)
Algeria 1 (Tasfaout 79)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Falla (Sen)
Cameroon: Alioum; Song, Kalla, Njanka; Foe, Njitap, Mayer, Olembe, Tchoutang (Ndo 72); Mboma (N'Diefi 61), Eto'o (Job 46).
Algeria: Benabdellah; Mamouni, Benhamlet (Haddou 46), Amrouche; Kraouche, Dziri, Tasfaout, Saib, Meftah; Ghazi (Mezouar 66), Moussouni (Saifi 51).

Feb 6 - Kumasi
Ghana 0
South Africa 1 (Nomvete 42)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Daami (Tun)
Ghana: Kingston, Dugbarthey, E Kuffour (Kennedy 75), S Kuffour, Johnson, Gyan, O Addo (Ofori-Quaye 46), Edusei, Akonnor (Appiah 53), Preko, Ayew.
South Africa: Arendse, Radebe, Fish, Issa, Tinkler, Ngobe, Moshoeu, Mkhalele, Fortune, Bartlett, Nomvete (Ndlanya 85). *Sent off: Tinkler 48mins.*

Feb 7 - Kano
Egypt 0
Tunisia 1 (Badra pen 22)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)
Egypt: N El Sayed; I Hassan (Sabry 46), Ramzy, El Saqqa (Ali 79), Omara; Khashaba, Radwan, T Al-Said (A Hassan 62), I Said; H Hassan, Hosny.
Tunisia: El Ouaer; Badra, S Trabelsi (Boukadida 78), Jaidi, Thabet; Beya (Bouazizi 66), Chihi, Bouzayane, Kanzari; Jaziri, Zitouni (Gabsi 46).

Feb 7 - Lagos
Nigeria 2 (Aghahowa 84, 92)
Senegal 1 (Fadiga 6)
Aet. **HT:** 0-1. **90mins:** 1-1. **Att:** 60,000
Nigeria: Shorunmu; Okunowo (Oliseh 79), Okpara, West, Babayaro; Babangida (Aghahowa 65), Adepoju, Okocha, George; Kanu, Akwuegbu (Amunike 61). *Sent off: Okocha 111mins.*
Senegal: Diallo; Daf (Badji 70), Traore (Sene 67), Ba, A Ndiaye; PM Diop, O Diop, M Ndiaye, Fall; Camara, Fadiga (Mbaye 99).

SEMI-FINALS

Feb 10 - Lagos
Nigeria 2 (Babangida 1, 34)
South Africa 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Ghandour (Egy)
Nigeria: Shorunmu; Babayaro, Iyenemi (Okunowo 90), West, Okpara, George, Oliseh, Adepoju, Babangida (Ikpeba 74), Kanu, Chukwu (Aghahowa 68).
South Africa: Arendse; Radebe, Fish, Issa, Ngobe, Mngomeni (Bapela 46), Moshoeu, Fortune (Lekoelea 76), Mkhalele, Bartlett, Nomvete (Ndlanya 79).

Feb 10 - Accra
Cameroon 3 (Mboma 48, 87, Eto'o 82)
Tunisia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Ali Bujsaim (UAE)
Cameroon: Alioum; Song, Kalla, Njanka; Foe, Njitap, Mayer, Olembe, Tchoutang (Wome 46); Mboma, Eto'o.
Tunisia: El Ouaer; Badra, S Trabelsi, Jaidi, Thabet; Chihi, Bouzayane, Kanzari (Zitouni 64), Gabsi; Jaziri (Bouazizi 60), Sellimi (Mehdhebi 73).

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

Feb 12 - Accra
South Africa 2 (Bartlett 11, Nomvete 62)
Tunisia 2 (Zitouni 27, 90)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Codja (Ben)
South Africa 4-3 on pens
South Africa: Arendse; Khomane, Radebe (Schoeman 40), Issa; Tinkler, Bapela, Shai, Moshoeu, Mkhalele; Bartlett, Ndlanya.
Tunisia: El Ouaer; Badra, Boukadida, Jaidi, Thabet; Chihi, Gabsi, Kanzari (Beya 73), Azaiez (Mehdhebi 64); Zitouni, Sellimi (Jaziri 70).

FINAL

Feb 13 - Lagos
Nigeria 2 (Chukwu 44, Okocha 47)
Cameroon 2 (Eto'o 26, Mboma 31)
Aet. **HT:** 1-2. **90mins:** 2-2. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Daami (Tun)
Cameroon 4-3 on pens
Nigeria: Shorunmu; Okpara, Iyenemi, West, Babayaro; George (Babangida 70), Oliseh, Adepoju (Ikpeba 98), Okocha; Chukwu (Aghahowa 46), Kanu.
Cameroon: Alioum; Njitap, Song, Kalla (Mettomo 94); Njanka, Wome, Mayer, Foe, Olembe; Eto'o (Job 72), Mboma.
Nations Cup squads are listed on pages 42-43.

GOLD CUP

FIRST ROUND

Group A

Feb 12 - Miami
Colombia 1 (Martinez 15)
Jamaica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 49,591. **Ref:** Ramos (Mex)

Feb 14 - Miami
Jamaica 0
Honduras 2 (Pavon pen 51, Caballero 86)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 23,795
Sent off: Lawrence (Jamaica) 32mins.

Feb 16 - Miami
Honduras 2 (Pavon 71, Nunez 78)
Colombia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 36,004

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Honduras	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Colombia	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Jamaica	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Group B

Feb 12 - Miami
United States 3 (Kirovski 18, Wynalda pen 55, Jones 89)
Haiti 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 49,591. **Ref:** Mejias (CR)

Feb 14 - Miami
Haiti 1 (Vorbe 61)
Peru 1 (Zuniga 69)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 23,795

Feb 16 - Miami
United States 1 (Jones 59)
Peru 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 36,004

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USA	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Peru	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Haiti	2	0	1	1	1	4	1

Group C

Feb 13 - Los Angeles
Mexico 4 (Marquez 37, Hernandez 53, David og 75, Palencia 85)
Trinidad & Tobago 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,131

Feb 15 - Los Angeles
Trinidad & Tobago 4 (Latapy 26, Dwarika 36, Nakhid 52, Yorke 83)
Guatemala 2 (Plata 30, Ramirez 47)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 23,621

Feb 17 - Los Angeles
Mexico 1 (Mora 26)
Guatemala 1 (Miranda 28)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 54,246

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Trinidad & Tob	2	1	0	1	4	6	3
Guatemala	2	0	1	1	3	5	1

Group D

Feb 13 - Los Angeles
Costa Rica 2 (Soto 11, Wallace 54)
Canada 2 (Corrazin pen 19, 57)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 22,131

Feb 15 - Los Angeles
South Korea 0
Canada 0
Att: 23,621

Feb 17 - Los Angeles
South Korea 2 (Lee Dong-gook 14, Lee Min-sung 75)
Costa Rica 2 (Wanchope 66, Medford 85)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 54,246

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Costa Rica	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Canada	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
South Korea	2	0	2	0	2	2	2

Canada qualified on the toss of a coin

QUARTER-FINALS

Feb 19 - Miami
United States 2 (McBride 20, Armas 51)
Colombia 2 (Asprilla 24, Bedoya 81)
Aet. **HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 32,972
Colombia 2-1 on pens

Feb 19 - Miami
Peru 5 (Holsen 7, Soto pen 14, Del Solar 50, Palacios 52, Saenz 87)
Honduras 3 (Clasvasquin 32, Pavon pen 67, Pineda 69)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 32,972. **Ref:** Sanchez (Chl)

Feb 20 - San Diego
Mexico 1 (Ramirez 35)
Canada 2 (Corrazin 83, Hastings 92)
Aet. **HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 18,062

Feb 20 - San Diego
Costa Rica 1 (Wanchope 89)
Trinidad & Tobago 2 (Dwarika 26, Trotman 101)
Aet. **HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 18,062

SEMI-FINALS

Feb 23 - San Diego
Colombia 2 (Salazar og 39, Bonilla 53)
Peru 1 (Palacios 75)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,402

Peru's Marcial Salazar turned a header from Arley Dinas into his own net to give Colombia a 39th mintue lead. Eight minutes after the break, Victor Bonilla exploited another defensive error to make it two. Peru keeper Oscar Ibanez failed to catch a chested back-pass and Bonilla, waiting to pounce, put the ball into an empty net. Roberto Palacios pulled a goal back with quarter of an hour remaining, hitting a 20-yard shot into the top left corner of the net.

Feb 24 - Los Angeles
Trinidad & Tobago 0
Canada 1 (Watson 68)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,841

Canada keeper Craig Forrest saved a David Nakhid penalty in the 36th minute, awarded after Mark Watson had fouled Jerren Nixon in the box. But Watson made amends for his transgression midway through the second half by scoring the only goal of the game. A Jim Brennan cross was flicked on by Carlo Corrazin, and Watson was on hand to head home.

FINAL

Feb 27 - Los Angeles
Canada 2 (De Vos 45, Corazzin pen 67)
Colombia 0
Canada: Forrest; Watson, Menezes, De Vos; Clarke, Fenwick, Stalteri, Hastings, Brennan; Nash (Kusch 89), Corazzin.
Colombia: Gomez; Martinez, Mosquera, Dinas, Cortes; Perez, Candelo, Zapata, Mosqueda (Hurtado 46); Bonilla (Congo 58), Asprilla.

Jason De Vos put Canada into a surprise lead just before half-time, heading in Martin Nash's corner. Though Colombia keeper Diego Gomez got hands to the ball, it rolled over the goal-line. Carlo Corazzin made it two in the 67th minute, converting a penalty after Gomez had tripped Jeff Clarke in the box.

After this, Colombia surged forward in an attempt to get back into the match. But their best chance of scoring – an 85th minute penalty by Faustino Asprilla, after Edwin Congo had been pushed in the penalty area – was saved by Craig Forrest.

"We were a complete outsider and we did a great job in the Final," said Canada coach Holger Osieck. "We played against a team with lots of potential, and to beat them the way we did is really special."

OTHER GAMES

Wednesday, January 26

Jan 26 - Cartagena - friendly
Spain 3 (Raul 15, Urzaiz 54, 60)
Poland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Poulat (Fra)
Spain: Molina (Juanmi 83) - Velasco, Hierro, Paco, Aranzabal - Etxeberria (Mendieta 46), Guardiola (Engonga 65), Valeron (Cembranos 73), Luis Enrique - Raul, Urzaiz (Salva 69).
Poland: Majdan - Zielinski, Zajac (Kaliszan 60), Zewlakow, Michalski - Krynowek, Iwan, Majak, Cerwiec - Gilewicz (Bizacki 75), Krzyszalowicz (Zurawski 52).

Thursday, January 27

Jan 27 - San Pedro Sula
Honduras 1 (Martinez 88)
Ecuador 1 (Graciani 13)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 12,000

Friday, January 28

Jan 28 - Doha - friendly
Qatar 2 (Mubarak 61, 90)
Bosnia-Herzegovina 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000

Saturday, January 29

Jan 29 - Coquimbo - friendly
Chile 1 (Riveros 56)
United States 2 (Lewis 55, Jones 88)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000

Monday, January 31

Jan 31 - La Manga - Nordic Chp
Norway 0
Iceland 0
Att: 2,500

Jan 31 - La Manga - Nordic Chp
Faroe Islands 0
Finland 1 (Sumiela 57
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,500

Jan 31 - La Manga - Nordic Chp
Denmark 0
Sweden 1 (Alback 22)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,500

Wednesday, February 2

Feb 2 - Larnaca - Cyprus Tnmt
Armenia 2 (Nazarian 45, Toumasian 95 golden goal)
Moldova 1 (Popovic 77)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,000

Feb 2 - Larnaca - Cyprus Tnmt
Georgia 2 (Ketsbaia 83, Kavelashvili 86)
Slovakia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000

Feb 2 - Limassol - Cyprus Tnmt
Cyprus 2 (Constandinou 60, 88)
Lithuania 1 (Fumenko 86)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000

Feb 2 - Paphos - Cyprus Tnmt
Romania 2 (Rosu 18, Niculae 69)
Latvia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,000

Feb 2 - La Manga - Nordic Chp
Iceland 1 (Dadason 45)
Finland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,500

Feb 2 - La Manga - Nordic Chp
Norway 4 (H Berg 50, 89, Lund 55, 90)
Denmark 2 (P Lassen 1, S Andersen 88)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,500

Feb 3 - San Jose - friendly
Costa Rica 1 (Alfaro 80)
Chile 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 11,500

Friday, February 4

Feb 4 - La Manga - Nordic Chp
Norway 1 (Carew 83)
Sweden 1 (Anders Andersson pen 86)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,500

Feb 4 - La Manga - Nordic Chp
Iceland 3 (Dadason 40, 56, Gunnlaugsson 65
Faroe Islands 2 (Morkore 20, Jonson 37)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 1,500

Feb 4 - La Manga - Nordic Chp
Denmark 1 (Moller 71)
Finland 2 (Vasara 33, 89)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,500

Feb 4 - Nicosia - Cyprus Tnmt semi-final
Cyprus 3 (Melanarkitis 36, Spoljaric 43, 114 golden goal)
Armenia 2 (A Petrossian 50, Karamyan 74)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,000

Feb 4 - Larnaca - Cyprus Tnmt semi-final
Romania 1 (Hildan 81)
Georgia 1 (Ketsbaia 41)
Aet. **HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 5,000
Romania 4-2 on pens

Feb 4 - Larnaca - Cyprus Tnmt places 5-8
Moldova 2 (Rogaciov 13, 76)
Lithuania 1 (Fumenko 78)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000

Feb 4 - Paphos - Cyprus Tnmt places 5-8
Slovakia 3 (Kuzel 30, Mintal 47, Babnic 49)
Latvia 1 (Stolcers 85)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,000

Saturday, February 5

Feb 5 - Hong Kong - Chinese New Year Tnmt
Hong Kong 2 (Bajkusa 26, Chang Siu-chung 70)
Czech Rep 2 (Jankulovski 48, Kinci 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,000
Czech Rep 4-3 on pens

Feb 5 - Hong Kong - Chinese New Year Tnmt
Mexico 1 (Zepeda 55)
Japan 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 14,000

Feb 5 - Guatemala City - friendly
Guatemala 2 (Garcia 29, Valencia 31)
Chile 1 (Queralto 59)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 10,000

Sunday, February 6

Feb 6 - Valletta - Malta Tnmt
Andorra 0
Albania 3 (Rezart pen 63, R Vata 86, Driza 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,500

Feb 6 - Valletta - Malta Tnmt
Malta 3 (Buttigieg 31, Agius 55, 90)
Azerbaijan 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,500

Feb 6 - Nicosia - Cyprus Tnmt Final
Cyprus 3 (Okkas 4, Poyadjis 69, Agathocleous 99 golden goal)
Romania 2 (Bogdan 17, Pompilus 55)
Aet. **HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 6,000

Feb 6 - Limassol - Cyprus Tnmt 3rd place play-off
Georgia 2 (Dzhanashia 7, Menteshashvili 55)
Armenia 1 (Khachatryan 44)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 6,000

Feb 6 - Larnaca - Cyprus Tnmt places 5-6
Moldova 2 (Testimitanu 77, Popovici 81)
Slovakia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,200

Feb 6 - Larnaca - Cyprus Tnmt places 7-8
Lithuania 2 (Valdas 54, Fumenko 89)
Latvia 1 (Peltis 4)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,200

Tuesday, February 8

Feb 8 - Valletta - Malta Tnmt
Malta 1 (G Mallia 23)
Andorra 1 (Sonejee 44)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 4,000

Feb 8 - Valletta - Malta Tnmt
Albania 1 (Mufati 37)
Azerbaijan 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,000

Feb 8 - Hong Kong - Chinese New Year Tnmt 3rd pl
Hong Kong 0
Japan 0
Att: 12,000
Japan 6-5 on pens

Feb 8 - Hong Kong - Chinese New Year Tnmt Final
Czech Rep 2 (Kolomaznik 50, Verbir 60)
Mexico 1 (Zepeda pen 79)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000

Wednesday, February 9

Feb 9 - Valparaiso - Chile Tnmt
Bulgaria 1
Slovakia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,000

Feb 9 - Valparaiso - Chile Tnmt
Chile 2
Australia 1
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,000

Thursday, February 10

Feb 10 - San Pedro Sula - friendly
Honduras 5 (Pavon 12, Tyson Nunez 28, 75, Hernandez og 69, Martinez 88)
El Salvador 1 (Torres 80)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 11,000

Saturday, February 12

Feb 12 - Valparaiso - Chile Tnmt
Chile 3
Bulgaria 2
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 9,000

Feb 12 - Valparaiso - Chile Tnmt
Slovakia 0
Australia 0
Att: 9,000

Tuesday, February 15

Feb 15 - Valparaiso - Chile Tnmt
Australia 1
Bulgaria 1
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,000

Feb 15 - Valparaiso - Chile Tnmt
Chile 0
Slovakia 2
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,000

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chile	3	2	0	1	5	5	6
Slovakia	3	1	1	1	2	1	4
Bulgaria	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Australia	3	0	2	1	2	3	2

Saturday, February 19

Feb 19 - Muscat - Muscat Tnmt
Oman 1 (Al-Mahrouqi 77)
Switzerland 4 (Cantaluppi 16, 66, Rey 37, Yakin 88)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 6,000

Feb 19 - Muscat - Muscat Tnmt
Slovenia 1 (Udovic 82)
United Arab Emirates 1 (Yaser Salim 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000

Wednesday, February 23

Feb 23 - Charleroi - friendly
Belgium 1 (Strupar 56)
Portugal 1 (Sa Pinto 80)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Fisker (Den)
Belgium: De Wilde - Genaux, Valgaeren, Staelens, Leonard, Verheyen (Mbo Mpenza 78), Vanderhaeghe, Wilmots, Goor (Boffin 68), Strupar (Brogno 81), De Bilde (Goossens 46).
Portugal: Pedro Espinha - Secretario, Fernando Couto (Danel Carvalho 70), Jorge Costa, Dimas (Rui Jorge 79), Paulo Bento (Beto 8), Jose Luis Vidigal, Rui Costa (Sa Pinto 63), Luis Figo (Nuno Capucho 84), Joao Pinto (Sergio Conceicao 57), Nuno Gomes.

Feb 23 - Zagreb - friendly
Croatia 0
Spain 0
Att: 10,000. **Ref:** Hanacsek (Hun)
Croatia: Pletikosa - Saric, Jarni, Soldo, Stimac, Tomas, Asanovic (Cvitanovic 83), Jurcic, N Kovac (Vucko 65), Suker, Vugrinec.
Spain: Molina - Velasco, Aranzabal, Engonga, Abelardo, Hierro (Paco 46), Etxebarria (Romero 84), Luis Enrique (Victor 65), Urzaiz (Salva 77), Fran (Mendieta 46), Valeron.

Feb 23 - Wembley - friendly
England 0
Argentina 0
Att: 74,008. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
England: Seaman - Keown (R Ferdinand 56), Southgate, Campbell, Dyer (P Neville 59), Wise, Beckham (Parlour 73), Scholes, Wilcox, Shearer (Phillips 78), Heskey (A Cole 79).
Argentina: Cavallero - Ayala, Arrubarrena (Vivas 67), Sensini (Pochettino 35), Simeone, Chamot, Kily Gonzalez, Veron, Zanetti, Batistuta (Crespo 57), Ortega (G Lopez 90).

Feb 23 - Saint-Denis - friendly
France 1 (Zidane 88)
Poland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 74,350. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
France: Barthez - Thuram, Blanc (Leboeuf 46), Desailly, Lizarazu, Deschamps, Petit (Vieira 58), Zidane, Djorkaeff (Vairelles 74), Trezeguet, Wiltord (Pires 58).
Poland: Dudek - Klos, Bak, Waldoch, Mi Zewlakow (Hajto 65), Karwan, P Swierczewski, Iwan (Wieszczycki 73), Krzynowek (Kielbowicz 90), Reiss (Rzazsa 84), Ma. Zewlakow (Krysztowicz 57).

Feb 23 - Kalamata - friendly
Greece 4 (George Georgiadis 36, 55, Ouzounidis 82, Lakis 90)
Austria 1 (Vastic 44)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 600.

Feb 23 - Amsterdam - friendly
Holland 2 (Kluivert 15, Zenden 28)
Germany 1 (Ziege 22)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Messina (Ita)
Holland: Van der Sar - Reiziger, Stam, Cocu (Numan 76), Bogarde, Seedorf, R De Boer (Makaay 65), Davids, Kluivert, Van Nistelrooy (Hasselbaink 76), Zenden.
Germany: Kahn - Babbel, Ziege, Linke, Sebescen (Deisler 46), Jeremies, Scholl, Hamann (Wosz 61), Bierhoff, Matthaus, Neuville (Baumann 76).

Feb 23 - Budapest - friendly
Hungary 0
Australia 3 (Laybutt 12, Skoko 74, Moore 90)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Drabek (Aut)
Hungary: Babos - Sebok (Dragoner 73), Bodog, Hrutka, Matyus, Lendvai, Vincze, Burkan, Zavadszky (Dombi 53), Klausz, Nagy.
Australia: Bosnich - Muscat, Moore, Laybutt, Vidmar, Corica (Foster 65), Skoko, Okon, Tiatto (Lazaridis 81), Viduka, Kewell (Agostino 46).

Feb 23 - Haifa - friendly
Israel 4 (Badir 3, 35, Udi 16, Nimni 86)
Russia 1 (Beschastnykh pen 58)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 11,000. **Ref:** Georgiou (Cyp)
Israel: Cohen (Kornfein 46) - Harazi (Halfon 46), Talkar, Shelah, Benado, Keisi, Banin, Nimni, Tal (Telesnikov 46), Badir, Udi (Turgeman 67).
Russia: Cherchesov - Khlestov, Khokhlov (But 65), Smertin, Janovsky (Tetradze 46), Semak, Onopko, Alenitchev, Titov (Tchugainov 46), Panov (Beschastnykh 46), Tikhonov (Shirko 46).

Feb 23 - Palermo - friendly
Italy 1 (Del Piero pen 80)
Sweden 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 27,000. **Ref:** Huyghe (Blg)
Italy: Buffon - Ferrara (Iuliano 76), Nesta, Cannavaro, Pessotto, Ambrosini (Gattuso 46), Tacchinardi (Locatelli 80), Di Francesco (Del Piero 46), Fiore (Panucci 63), Montella (Totti 46), Vieri (F Inzaghi 60).
Sweden: Hedman - Gustafsson (Mellberg 46), Bjorklund, Sundgren, P Andersson, Schwarz (Arvidsson 46), Alexandersson, D Andersson, Anders Andersson (M Jonsson 65), K Andersson (Mjallby 46), Pettersssson.

Feb 23 - Skopje - friendly
Macedonia 1 (Karanfilovski 79)
Yugoslavia 2 (Mijatovic 20, 37)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000
Macedonia: Nikolov (Milosevski 54) - Stavrevski, Gerasimovski (Memedi 46), Stojanovski, Nikolovski, Babunski (Karafilovski 54), Serafimovski, Lazarevski (Beqiri 62), Hristov (Miserdovski 62), Ciric (Georgioski 46), Shaqiri (Petrov 78).
Yugoslavia: Kralj (Cicovic 46) - Sakic (Bolic 55), Djorovic (Krstajic 50), Jokanovic (Saveljic 46), Djukic, Grozdic, Jugovic (Djordjevic 46), Mijatovic (Milosevic 46), Kovacevic, Drulovic, Mihajlovic (Bunjevcevic 46).

Feb 23 - Muscat - Muscat Tnmt
Oman 0
Slovenia 4 (Pavlin 15, Zahovic 32, 57, Acimovic 65)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 5,000
Sent off: Bulajic (Slovenia) 60mins.

Feb 23 - Doha - friendly
Qatar 0
Wales 1 (Robinson 10)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,000

Feb 23 - Dublin - friendly
Rep Ireland 3 (Rada og 16, Harte 43, Robbie Keane 87)
Czech Republic 2 (Koller 4, 35)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 30,543

Feb 23 - Bangkok - friendly
Thailand 0
Brazil 7 (Rivaldo 12, 38, Ronaldinho 44, Emerson 49, 85, Roque Junior 74, Jardel 79)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 22,000

Feb 23 - Istanbul - friendly
Turkey 0
Norway 2 (Riise 37, Strand 73)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Kaznaferis (Gre)
Turkey: Fevzi (Metin Aktas 83) - Umit (Ayhan 59), Ogun (Ramazan 70), Fatih Akyel, Tugay (Emre 68), Arif (Umit Karan 75), Tayfun, Abdullah, Hakan Sukur (Ahmet 46), Sergen Yalcin (Okan 59), Tayfur.
Norway: F Olsen - Bergdolmo (Riseth 43), Bragstad, Berg, Heggem (T Andersen 46), Strand (Solbakken 87), Mykland, Carew, T A Flo, Rekdal, Riise (Bakke 83).

Feb 23 - Muscat - Muscat Tnmt
United Arab Emirates 1 (Ali Aloo Haider 85)
Switzerland 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 4,000
Sent off: Mohamed Ibrahim (UAE) 68mins; Henchoz (Switzerland) 42mins.

EUROPE

BELGIUM

Friday, January 28

Standard 5 (Van Buyten 2, Mornar 46, Lukunku 50, Thijs pen 63, Goossens 73)
Genk 1 (Origi 90) Att: 23,000

Saturday, January 29

Beveren 2 (Van Rumst 42, Tarachulski 57)
Mechelen 1 (Elias 80) Att: 4,000

Charleroi 1 (Kaklamanos 39)
Gent 2 (Arst 50, Dahlum 53) Att: 4,000

Geel 3 (Versavel 45, Delen 75, 90)
Lokeren 0 Att: 4,500

Lommel 3 (Dekelver 43, 66, Simons pen 88)
Anderlecht 3 (Ekakia 38, Koller 60, Stoica 75) Att: 8,000

St Truiden 2 (Vrancken 14, Isaias 89)
Germinal BA 0 Att: 6,500

Sunday, January 30

Club Brugge 3 (Vermant pen 18, Mendoza 88, Smolders 90)
Eendracht Aalst 0 Att: 12,000

Lierse 2 (Somers 28, Maes og 48)
Harelbeke 0 Att: 6,500

Mouscron 2 (Ma. Zewlakow 13, 69)
Westerlo 1 (Zelenka 35) Att: 7,000

Saturday, February 5

Genk 1 (Origi 39)
Charleroi 2 (D Brogno 57, Dufer 67) Att: 19,217

Gent 2 (Kharif 89, Joly 90)
Mouscron 3 (Martic 40, 61, Ramcic og 86) Att: 6,500

Mechelen 4 (Debusschere 10, Van Hout 18, Elias 48, 52)
Lierse 3 (Spiteri 6, Van Meir 13, Van de Weyer 80) Att: 10,000

Westerlo 3 (Zelenka 19, Pelic 45, De Coninck 89)
Beveren 2 (Imagbudu 41, Nuhiji 48) Att: 6,000

Sunday, February 6

Anderlecht 1 (Sonko 80)
Club Brugge 1 (Borkelmans 68) Att: 26,435

Eendracht Aalst 2 (Thiebaut 69, De Oliveira 71)
St Truiden 0 Att: 5,000

Harelbeke 5 (Paas 31, pen 35, 53, Wostijn 84, Kaku 86)
Lommel 1 (Gomis 11) Att: 4,000

Standard 3 (Thijs 20, pen 26, Goossens 84)
Geel 0 Att: 24,503

Friday, February 11

Mouscron 5 (Tanghe 40, Lawaree 43, 50, 62, Ma. Zewlakow 52)
Genk 0 Att: 10,000

Saturday, February 12

Beveren 0
Gent 1 (Dauwen 67) Att: 4,000

Geel 0
Germinal BA 2 (Hofmans 19, Mutavdzic 88) Att: 6,500

Lierse 7 (Cavens 10, 51, Van de Weyer 38, 77, Van Meir 61, pen 75, Somers 70)
Westerlo 0 Att: 10,000

Lokeren 5 (Dago 30, Janssens 55, Vonasek 68, Youla 71, Mitrakovic 75)
Eendracht Aalst 1 (Sarli 76) Att: 6,750

Lommel 0
Mechelen 2 (Camus 24, Chatelle 86) Att: 5,000

St Truiden 0
Anderlecht 4 (Ekakia 9, 66, Goor 25, Koller 64) Att: 11,000

Sunday, February 13

Charleroi 1 (D Brogno pen 65)
Standard 4 (Pierre 18, Goossens 43, Ernst 55, Thijs pen 86) Att: 21,131

Club Brugge 1 (De Cock 90)
Harelbeke 2 (Klomp 16, Paas 44) Att: 14,000

Friday, February 18

Gent 2 (Vasov 4, Kharif 61)
Lierse 0 Att: 8,500

Standard 2 (Thijs pen 37, Mornar 64)
Mouscron 0 Att: 27,114

Saturday, February 19

Anderlecht 5 (Anastasiou 42, 67, Goor 53, 72, Zetterberg pen 88)
Lokeren 0 Att: 25,052

Charleroi 1 (Rojas 87)
Geel 3 (Preisinger 52, Delen 66, Kere og 90) Att: 8,500

Mechelen 0
Club Brugge 0 Att: 9,662

Westerlo 1 (Machiels 30)
Lommel 0 Att: 4,500

Sunday, February 20

Eendracht Aalst 1 (Grommen 84)
Germinal BA 2 (Sonck 15, Herreman pen 61) Att: 5,920

Genk 4 (Hasi 3, Ban 21, T Gudjonsson pen 61, Skoko 84)
Beveren 1 (Van den Eede 42) Att: 19,890

Harelbeke 3 (Klomp 3, Laamers 53, Paas 89)
St Truiden 2 (Burg 25, Hayen 34) Att: 5,000

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	23	16	6	1	62	23	54
Standard Liege	24	15	2	7	55	36	47
Club Brugge	23	13	4	6	52	23	43
Gent	24	14	1	9	58	44	43
Genk	24	12	6	6	51	37	42
Lierse	24	12	5	7	48	31	41
Germinal BA	23	12	5	6	42	33	41
Mouscron	24	12	4	8	51	36	40
Westerlo	24	10	6	8	45	53	36
Mechelen	24	10	3	11	39	53	33
Eendracht Aalst	24	9	2	13	43	50	29
Lokeren	23	8	5	10	42	50	29
Harelbeke	24	8	4	12	48	48	28
Beveren	24	5	6	13	33	52	21
Charleroi	24	5	6	13	28	48	21
St Truiden	24	5	4	15	24	52	19
Geel	24	3	9	12	19	43	18
Lommel	24	1	10	13	22	50	13

LEADING GOALSCORERS

20	Ole-Martin Arst (Gent)
19	Toni Brogno (Westerlo)
17	David Paas (Harelbeke)
15	Jan Koller (Anderlecht)
14	Marcin Zewlakow (Mouscron)
12	Eric Van Meir (Lierse)

BELGIAN CUP – LAST 16

Eendracht Aalst 4 Germinal BA 1.

LEAGUE CUP – QUARTER-FINALS

Feb 1: Harelbeke 2 Anderlecht 5.
Feb 9: Lierse 4 Club Brugge 2.

CROATIA

Feb 19: Zagreb 0 Hajduk 3; Osijek 1 Cibalia 1; Slaven 0 Hrvatski drag 1; Vukovar '91 0 Dinamo 0; Istra 0 Varteks 2; Rijeka 3 Sibenik 1.

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hajduk	17	13	3	1	44	15	42
Dinamo	17	12	4	1	46	12	40
Osijek	17	9	3	5	30	25	30
Rijeka	17	8	3	6	34	22	27
Cibalia	17	5	7	5	22	20	22
Zagreb	17	5	7	5	19	22	22
Varteks	17	6	3	8	20	28	21
Slaven	17	4	8	5	16	21	20
Vukovar '91	17	3	6	8	14	26	15
Hrvatski drag	17	3	5	9	18	37	14
Sibenik	17	2	7	8	13	29	13
Istra	17	2	4	11	16	35	10

CZECH REP

Feb 18: Ostrava 1 Slavia 3.
Feb 19: Liberec 0 Dukla 0; Brno 2 Drnovice 3; Ceske Budejovice 1 Zizkov 0; Sparta 4 Opava 0; Teplice 2 Jablonec 0; Kralove 1 Chmel Blsany 1; Bohemians 1 Olomouc 3.

CZECH REP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slavia	17	13	4	0	30	8	43
Sparta	17	12	3	2	44	15	39
Drnovice	17	9	3	5	23	16	30
Bohemians	17	6	6	5	16	14	24
Teplice	17	6	6	5	23	23	24
Ceske Budejovice	17	7	3	7	21	22	24
Liberec	17	5	7	5	12	13	22
Ostrava	17	5	6	6	23	22	21
Dukla	17	5	6	6	16	22	21
Chmel Blsany	17	6	3	8	17	29	21
Brno	17	5	4	8	20	23	19
Olomouc	17	3	9	5	19	25	18
Opava	17	4	5	8	21	23	17
Jablonec	17	4	4	9	15	27	16
Kralove	17	3	6	8	17	24	15
Zizkov	17	3	5	9	24	35	14

ENGLAND

Saturday, January 29

Man Utd 1 (Beckham 87)
Middlesbrough 0 Att: 61,267

Wednesday, February 2

Sheffield Wed 0
Man Utd 1 (Sheringham 73) Att: 39,640

Saturday, February 5

Aston Villa 4 (Stone 47, Merson 57, 59, Walker 81)
Watford 0 Att: 27,647

Bradford 2 (Windass 10, Saunders 57)
Arsenal 1 (Henry 13) Att: 18,276

Derby 3 (Strupar 71, Burley 90, Christie 90)
Sheffield Wed 3 (De Bilde 22, Sibon 68, Donnelly 89) Att: 30,100

Leicester 2 (O'Neill og 1, Impey 41)
Middlesbrough 1 (Campbell 52) Att: 17,550

Liverpool 3 (Hamann 20, Berger 69, Murphy 90)
Leeds 1 (Bowyer 62) Att: 44,793

Man Utd 3 (Cole 39, 54, Scholes 77)
Coventry 2 (Roussel 65, 90) Att: 61,380

Southampton 2 (Pahars 54, Charles og 86)
West Ham 1 (Lampard 65) Att: 15,257

Sunderland 2 (Phillips 22, 82)
Newcastle 2 (Domi 11, Helder 21) Att: 42,192

Tottenham 0
Chelsea 1 (Lambourde 52) Att: 36,041

Sunday, February 6

Wimbledon 0
Everton 3 (Campbell 52, 60, Moore 63) Att: 13,172

Saturday, February 12

Chelsea 3 (Poyet 78, Weah 79, Morris 90)
Wimbledon 1 (Lund 73) Att: 34,826

Coventry 3 (Keane 2, Hadji 13, Roussel 18)
Sunderland 2 (Phillips 57, Rae 88) Att: 22,101

Everton 2 (Moore 24, Ball pen 45)
Derby 1 (Nimni 59) Att: 33,268

Leeds 1 (Kewell 23)
Tottenham 0 Att: 40,127

Newcastle 3 (Ferguson 26, Shearer 76, 86)
Man Utd 0 Att: 36,470

Sheffield Wed 0
Southampton 1 (Tessem 26) Att: 23,470

Watford 1 (Wooter 47)
Leicester City 1 (Elliott 39) Att: 16,814

West Ham 5 (Sinclair 35, Moncur 43, Di Canio pen 65, Cole 70, Lampard 83)
Bradford 4 (Windass 30, Beagrie pen 44, Lawrence 47, 51) Att: 25,417

Sunday, February 13

Arsenal 0
Liverpool 1 (Camara 18) Att: 38,098

Monday, February 14

Middlesbrough 0
Aston Villa 4 (Carbone 11, 65, Joachim 70, 75) Att: 31,571

Saturday, February 19

Middlesbrough 2 (Festa 8, Ricard 20)
Coventry 0 Att: 32,798

Sunday, February 20

Leeds 0
Man Utd 1 (Cole 52) Att: 40,160

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	25	17	5	3	57	31	56
Leeds	25	16	2	7	39	29	50
Liverpool	25	14	5	6	38	21	47
Arsenal	25	13	5	7	43	26	44
Chelsea	25	12	7	6	35	23	43
Sunderland	25	11	6	8	41	36	39
Aston Villa	25	10	7	8	30	23	37
Everton	25	9	9	7	42	35	36
Tottenham	25	10	5	10	34	29	35
West Ham	24	9	8	7	34	31	35
Leicester	25	10	5	10	35	36	35
Coventry	25	8	8	9	35	31	32
Newcastle	25	8	7	10	44	41	31
Middlesbrough	25	9	4	12	27	37	31
Southampton	24	8	5	11	29	38	29
Wimbledon	25	6	10	9	35	43	28
Derby	25	6	6	13	27	38	24
Bradford	25	6	6	13	25	41	24
Sheffield Wed	25	4	5	16	23	51	17
Watford	25	4	3	18	22	55	15

LEADING GOALSCORERS

23	Kevin Phillips (Sunderland)
16	Andy Cole (Man Utd)
16	Alan Shearer (Newcastle)
12	Michael Bridges (Leeds)
12	Paolo Di Canio (West Ham)
11	Robbie Keane (Coventry)
11	Dwight Yorke (Man Utd)
9	Tony Cottee (Leicester)
9	Dion Dublin (Aston Villa)
9	Tore Andre Flo (Chelsea)
9	Steffen Iversen (Tottenham)
9	Niall Quinn (Sunderland)

FA CUP – 5TH RND

Jan 29: Cambridge Utd 1 Bolton 3; Coventry 2 Charlton 3; Everton 2 Preston 0; Fulham 1 Tranmere 2; Gillingham 3 Sheffield Wed 1.
Jan 30: Aston Villa 3 Leeds 2; Chelsea 2 Leicester 1.
Jan 31: Blackburn 1 Newcastle 2.

QUARTER-FINALS

Feb 19: Bolton 1 Charlton 0.
Feb 20: Chelsea 5 Gillingham 0; Everton 1 Aston Villa 2; Tranmere 2 Newcastle 3.

LEAGUE CUP – SEMI-FINALS

1st legs
Jan 12: Bolton 0 Tranmere 1.
Jan 25: Aston Villa 0 Leicester 0.

2nd legs
Jan 26: Tranmere 3 Bolton 0
Tranmere 4-0 on agg.
Feb 2: Leicester 1 Aston Villa 0
Leicester 1-0 on agg.

FRANCE

Tuesday, February 1

Auxerre 1 (Guivarc'h 86)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 12,000

Monaco 1 (Trezeguet 84)
Paris SG 0 Att: 13,000

Wednesday, February 2

Le Havre 2 (Beuzelin 18, Gravelaine 45)
Bastia 2 (Jurietti 30, Laurent 67) Att: 9,944

Marseille 1 (Pouget 24)
Rennes 1 (Nonda 89) Att: 48,585

Nancy 1 (Ze Alcino 27)
Troyes 2 (Djukic pen 42, Mendy 70) Att: 7,308

Nantes 1 (Baticle 45)
Metz 3 (Saha 8, Da Rocha 44, Carriere og 67) Att: 20,000

Saint-Etienne 0
Lens 2 (Sakho 8, Moreira 90) Att: 19,940

Sedan 2 (Di Rocco 2, 4)
Montpellier 1 (Maoulida pen 80) Att: 9,488

Strasbourg 4 (Luyindula 33, 68, 75, Laville og 47)
Lyon 2 (Anderson 79, Kanoute 80) Att: 14,862

Saturday, February 5

Bastia 4 (Lachuer 40, Nee 62, 85, Swierczewski 75)
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 6,000

Bordeaux 3 (Ziani 3, Micoud 32, Laslandes 89)
Strasbourg 0 Att: 29,216

Lens 2 (Dacourt 45, 76)
Auxerre 1 (Kapo 55) Att: 40,385

Montpellier 0
Le Havre 0 Att: 11,292

Paris SG 0
Nantes 0 Att: 43,659

Rennes 3 (Sommeil 56, Nonda 71, 90)
Nancy 1 (Ze Alcino 70) Att: 10,572

Troyes 0
Sedan 2 (Deblock 46, Crosnier 90) Att: 16,041

Sunday, February 6

Lyon 2 (Anderson 5, Sagnol og 22)
Monaco 1 (Trezeguet 37) Att: 38,678

Metz 2 (Boffin 30, Baticle 65)
Marseille 0 Att: 25,648

Tuesday, February 15

Marseille 4 (Perez 24, Pouget 59, Abardonado 67, Maurice 78)
Paris SG 1 (Christian 7) Att: 54,876

Nantes 6 (Da Rocha 6, Sibierski 9, 10, Devineau 42, 52, Chanelet 88)
Lyon 1 (Vairelles 35) Att: 28,142

Wednesday, February 16

Auxerre 0
Strasbourg 1 (Luyindula 2) Att: 9,000

Le Havre 2 (Deniaud 20, 87)
Troyes 0 Att: 10,721

Lens 4 (Sakho 5, 28, Nouma 69, Brunel 89)
Bastia 0 Att: 38,317

Monaco 1 (Riise 83)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 15,000

Nancy 0
Metz 0 Att: 13,219

Saint-Etienne 5 (Pedron 26, Aloisio 29, 82, Alex 36, Carotti 42)
Montpellier 4 (Wallemme og 10, Loko 20, 54, Rui Pataca 58) Att: 20,128

Sedan 2 (Di Rocco 6, Huard 60)
Rennes 1 (Diatta 54) Att: 10,107

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaco	26	17	4	5	52	22	55
Paris SG	26	12	6	8	38	32	42
Auxerre	26	12	6	8	30	26	42
Lyon	26	12	6	8	33	34	42
Sedan	26	12	5	9	36	34	41
Lens	26	10	6	10	30	28	36
Metz	26	7	14	5	31	25	35
Marseille	26	8	11	7	34	30	35
Bordeaux	26	9	8	9	37	35	35
Bastia	26	8	10	8	32	30	34
Rennes	26	9	7	10	34	34	34
Saint-Etienne	26	9	6	11	37	42	33
Strasbourg	26	9	6	11	30	39	33
Nantes	26	9	5	12	32	31	32
Le Havre	26	8	7	11	25	37	31
Nancy	26	8	6	12	30	34	30
Troyes	26	9	2	15	26	44	29
Montpellier	26	5	7	14	29	39	22

LEADING GOALSCORERS

17 Sonny Anderson (Lyon)
16 Marco Simone (Monaco)
16 David Trezeguet (Monaco)
14 Christian (Paris SG)
13 Alex (Saint-Etienne)
12 Lilian Laslandes (Bordeaux)
12 Shabani Nonda (Rennes)
11 Stephane Guivarc'h (Auxerre)
11 Antoine Sibierski (Nantes)
11 Sylvain Wiltord (Bordeaux)

FRENCH CUP – LAST 32

Feb 11: Amiens 1 Laval 1 (aet - Amiens on pens); Besancon 2 Strasbourg 2 (Strasbourg on pens); Niort 0 Cannes 3; Saint-Etienne 0 Lorient 0 (Lorient on pens).
Feb 12: Beaume-les-Dames 0 Paris SG 2; Calais 3 Langon-Castets-en-Dorthe 0; GSI Pontivy 2 ASOA Valence 1; Les Herbiers 0 Rennes 4; Montceau-les-Mines 0 Nantes 6; Lyon 1 Troyes 0; Marseille 3 Gueugnon 4; Nimes 1 Toulouse 0; Porto-Vecchio 1 Bordeaux 4; Red Star 1 Le Havre 0; Thouars 1 Monaco 2; Saint-Quentin 1 Metz 3 (aet).

LEAGUE CUP – LAST 16

Jan 28: Monaco 2 Strasbourg 3 (aet).
Jan 29: Beauvais 0 Sedan 1 (aet); Chateauroux 0 Paris SG 1; Gueugnon 1 Toulouse 0; Lyon 1 Bordeaux 0; Saint-Etienne 1 Red Star 3.
Jan 30: Bastia 1 Montpellier 0.
Feb 10: Nancy 2 Sochaux 1 (aet).

QUARTER-FINALS

Feb 19: Gueugnon 2 Strasbourg 0; Paris SG 3 Nancy 0.
Feb 20: Lyon 0 Bastia 1 (aet); Sedan 0 Red Star 1.

GERMANY

Friday, February 4

Borussia Dortmund 0
Kaiserslautern 1 (Koch 52) Att: 62,000

Hansa Rostock 0
Hertha 1 (Preetz 61) Att: 16,000

Saturday, February 5

Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Labbadia 87)
Schalke 2 (Sand 16, Wilmots 78) Att: 26,601

Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Schneider 3, Beinlich 37, 58)
Duisburg 0 Att: 22,500

Freiburg 2 (Ben Slimane 23, 80)
Ulm 0 Att: 24,500

1860 Munich 1 (Winkler 40)
Wolfsburg 2 (Juskowiak 10, 78) Att: 26,500

Werder Bremen 2 (Trares 6, Herzog 13)
Stuttgart 1 (Lisztes 68) Att: 26,000

Sunday, February 6

Hamburg 0
Bayern Munich 0 Att: 53,800

Unterhaching 1 (Rraklli pen 62)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 9,400

Tuesday, February 8

Hertha 2 (Preetz 51, 75)
Arminia Bielefeld 0 Att: 34,300

Kaiserslautern 2 (Pettersson 85, Komljenovic 86)
Hansa Rostock 2 (Arvidsson 11, Agali 73) Att: 36,300

Schalke 3 (Sand 6, 83, Mpenza 46)
Werder Bremen 1 (Ailton 33) Att: 27,500

Ulm 3 (Otto 11, Van der Haar 14, Scharinger 73)
1860 Munich 0 Att: 23,800

Wednesday, February 9

Bayern Munich 4 (Hoffmann og 2, Effenberg 45, Scholl 56, Zickler 90)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Ballack 65) Att: 31,000

Duisburg 2 (Hajto 14, Reiss 20)
Unterhaching 0 Att: 10,500

Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Sobotzik 32, Mutzel 81)
Freiburg 0 Att: 18,400

Stuttgart 1 (Endress 67)
Hamburg 3 (Yeboah 63, 66, Mahdavikia 89) Att: 20,000

Wolfsburg 1 (Rische 44)
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 18,300

Friday, February 11

Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Weissenberger 36)
Kaiserslautern 2 (Koch 38, Buck 90) Att: 16,200

Werder Bremen 4 (Trares 8, Baumann 17, Eilts 20, Ailton 78)
Hertha 1 (Alves 50) Att: 26,400

Saturday, February 12

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Rink 69)
Stuttgart 0 Att: 22,500

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Herrlich 21)
Ulm 1 (Bodog 60) Att: 58,500

Duisburg 2 (Reiss 45, 90)
Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Sobotzik 19, 27, Gebhardt 89) Att: 15,000

Hansa Rostock 1 (Brand 24)
Wolfsburg 1 (Sebescen 66) Att: 12,000

Unterhaching 0
Bayern Munich 2 (Paulo Sergio 72, Scholl 90) Att: 10,000

Sunday, February 13

Hamburg 3 (Kovac 60, Butt pen 72, Kovac 78)
Schalke 1 (Mpenza 15) Att: 40,000

1860 Munich 3 (Zelic 11, Hassler 67, Golz og 77)
Freiburg 1 (Kohl 22) Att: 23,700

Friday, February 18

Hertha 2 (Preetz 64, 82)
Hamburg 1 (Kovac 89) Att: 48,067

Schalke 1 (Mpenza 16)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Rink 29) Att: 36,035

Saturday, February 19

Bayern Munich 4 (Paulo Sergio 62, Elber 68, Lizarazu 77, Zickler 87)
Duisburg 1 (Wolters 75) Att: 28,000

Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Kutschera 6, Heldt 23, Salou 56)
1860 Munich 1 (Schroth 36) Att: 30,800

Freiburg 1 (Ben Slimane 8)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Herrlich 23) Att: 25,000

Kaiserslautern 4 (Pettersson 26, Djorkaeff pen 49, 67, Strasser 72)
Werder Bremen 3 (Baumann 23, 42, Herzog 83) Att: 39,187

Stuttgart 0
Unterhaching 2 (Rraklli 67, Matthias Zimmermann 86) Att: 14,000

Sunday, February 20

Ulm 1 (Van der Haar 83)
Hansa Rostock 1 (Wibran 37) Att: 21,000

Wolfsburg 2 (Munteanu 35, Juskowiak 68)
Arminia Bielefeld 0 Att: 15,530

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	21	14	4	3	43	15	46
Bayer Leverkusen	21	11	8	2	35	23	41
Hamburg	21	10	8	3	46	23	38
Kaiserslautern	21	10	3	8	30	36	33
Werder Bremen	21	9	5	7	44	33	32
1860 Munich	21	9	5	7	33	30	32
Wolfsburg	21	8	7	6	28	32	31
Hertha	21	8	7	6	28	33	31
B Dortmund	21	7	9	5	26	17	30
Schalke	21	6	10	5	28	26	28
Stuttgart	21	8	3	10	23	27	27
Unterhaching	21	7	5	9	21	24	26
Freiburg	21	6	6	9	28	29	24
Ulm	21	6	6	9	24	29	24
Hansa Rostock	21	5	8	8	27	40	23
Eintracht	21	6	2	13	25	31	20
Duisburg	21	3	7	11	23	40	16
A Bielefeld	21	2	5	14	15	39	11

LEADING GOALSCORERS

10 Ebbe Sand (Schalke)
9 Ailton (Werder Bremen)
9 Michael Preetz (Hertha)
9 Adel Sellimi (Freiburg)
9 Tony Yeboah (Hamburg)
8 Stefan Beinlich (Bayer Leverkusen)
8 Marco Bode (Werder Bremen)
8 Hans-Jorg Butt (Hamburg)
8 Youri Djorkaeff (Kaiserslautern)
8 Giovane Elber (Bayern Munich)
8 Ulf Kirsten (Bayer Leverkusen)
8 Martin Max (1860 Munich)
8 Paulo Sergio (Bayern Munich)

GERMAN CUP – SEMI-FINALS

Feb 15: Werder Bremen 2 Stuttgart Kickers 1 (aet).
Feb 16: Bayern Munich 3 Hansa Rostock 2.

GREECE

Jan 29: Panahaiki 0 Olympiakos 2.
Jan 30: OFI 2 Aris 1; PAOK 2 Trikala 0; Xanthi 2 Ionikos 1; Panathinaikos 3 Kavala 0; Ethnikos A 3 Apollon 1; Proodeftiki 1 Paniliakos 1; Iraklis 1 Panionios 2.
Jan 31: Kalamata 1 AEK 1.
Feb 5: Aris 0 Xanthi 1.
Feb 6: OFI 3 Kalamata 2; AEK 2 PAOK 0; Trikala 1 Panathinaikos 3; Ionikos 0 Panahaiki 0; Kavala 2 Ethnikos A 0; Paniliakos 3 Panionios 0.
Feb 7: Apollon 1 Iraklis 0; Olympiakos 4 Proodeftiki 0.
Feb 13: Kalamata 1 PAOK 1; Xanthi 1 OFI 1; Ethnikos A 1 Trikala 0; Proodeftiki 2 Ionikos 2; Iraklis 2 Kavala 1; Panionios 0 Olympiakos 1; Panathinaikos 1 AEK 0; Paniliakos 2 Apollon 1.
Feb 14: Panahaiki 1 Aris 2.
Feb 19: Kavala 2 Paniliakos 1.
Feb 20: OFI 2 Panahaiki 2; AEK 2 Ethnikos A 1; Aris 2 Proodeftiki 1; Ionikos 2 Panionios 0; Olympiakos 2 Apollon 0; PAOK 1 Panathinaikos 3.
Feb 21: Trikala 3 Iraklis 3; Xanthi 1 Kalamata 0.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	20	18	0	2	55	14	54
Panathinaikos	20	17	2	1	52	14	53
OFI	20	13	5	2	37	23	44
AEK	20	10	4	6	36	24	34
Iraklis	20	10	3	7	36	30	33
Aris	20	9	5	6	28	22	32
Paniliakos	20	8	4	8	27	22	28
PAOK	20	7	7	6	31	27	28
Xanthi	20	7	7	6	21	22	28
Panionios	20	9	1	10	30	39	28
Ethnikos A	20	7	2	11	18	28	23
Ionikos	20	4	10	6	20	25	22
Kavala	20	5	4	11	21	34	19
Panahaiki	20	4	6	10	19	29	18
Kalamata	20	3	6	11	19	40	15
Apollon	20	3	5	12	14	30	14
Proodeftiki	20	3	5	12	13	31	14
Trikala	20	3	4	13	16	39	13

LEADING GOALSCORERS

16 Gomez (OFI)
13 Nalitzis (Panionios)
11 Konstantinou (Iraklis)
10 Alexandris (Olympiakos)
9 Ciric (AEK)
9 Giannakopoulos (Olympiakos)
9 Lymberopoulos (Panathinaikos)
8 Nikolaidis (AEK)

HOLLAND

Wednesday, January 26

Vitesse 1 (Van Hooijdonk 37)
Den Bosch 0 Att: 25,200

Saturday, January 29

De Graafschap 3 (Fuchs 14, 68, Tumba 20, Fuchs 68)
Cambuur 1 (Van der Heide 26) Att: 8,450

Sparta 2 (Nielsen 74, Boukhari 90)
Heerenveen 1 (Talan 59) Att: 6,492

Tuesday, February 1

MVV 0
Roda JC 0 Att: 8,200

Wednesday, February 2

Cambuur 0
NEC 0 Att: 7,500

Heerenveen 1 (Lurling 38)
Ajax 1 (Machlas 42) Att: 14,000

RKC 1 (Petrov 24)
Willem II 0 Att: 6,000

Twente 4 (Grujic 45, Peiremans 69, De Witte 79, Vennegoor of Hesselink 90)
AZ 1 (Ricksen 20) Att: 13,000

Vitesse 3 (Jochemsen 41, Laros 56, Diarra 81)
De Graafshap 1 (Tumba 69) Att: 25,500

Thursday, February 3

PSV 0
Feyenoord 1 (Paauwe 23) Att: 28,000

Friday, February 4

Utrecht 2 (Robbemond 2, Cairo 18)
MVV 0 Att: 12,000

Saturday, February 5

Heerenveen 3 (Talan 32, Popovitsj 63, Lurling 77)
AZ 0 Att: 13,900

NEC 2 (Oosterhof 42, Renfurm 57)
De Graafschap 3 (Turpijn 7, Fuchs 12, Ax 80) Att: 7,500

Sparta 1 (Nielsen 5)
Vitesse 1 (Sikora 68) Att: 8,369

Willem II 1 (Schulp 4)
Twente 1 (Ter Avest 66) Att: 14,300

Sunday, February 6

Ajax 3 (Machlas 7, Loontjens 10, Laudrup 14)
Cambuur 1 (Scharrenburg 48) Att: 33,000

Den Bosch 2 (Wreh 9, 73)
PSV 6 (Nilis 12, 28, Van Nistelrooy 29, Nikiforov 49, Bruggink 66, 80) Att: 4,311

Feyenoord 2 (Tomasson 37, Cairo 74)
Roda JC 1 (Van Dessel 12) Att: 33,500

RKC 0
Fortuna 3 (Gerritsen 23, Volmer 30, Amoah 43) Att: 5,000

Wednesday, February 9

AZ 4 (Bosman 16, 42, Opdam 51, Perez 65)
Sparta 0 Att: 6,770

Fortuna 2 (Roest pen 7, Krijgsman 47)
Feyenoord 3 (Bosvelt 76, Cairo 84, Cruz 85) Att: 9,000

MVV 2 (Kortchaguine pen 25, Caers 54)
Den Bosch 0 Att: 6,500

Twente 1 (Vennegoor of Hesselink 4)
RKC 0 Att: 13,000

Willem II 3 (De Romijn og 78, Shoukov 79, Ramzi 83)
NEC 1 (Schultz 42) Att: 14,000

Thursday, February 10

PSV 4 (Van Bommel 4, Van Nistelrooy 12, pen 15, 83)
Ajax 0 Att: 28,000

Roda JC 3 (Peeters 68, 78, Doomernik 90)
Utrecht 2 (John De Jong 36, Dijkhuizen 87)

Saturday, February 12

Cambuur 0
Fortuna 0 Att: 7,500

NEC 1 (Hesp 24)
AZ 2 (Hernandez 12, Fertout 75) Att: 7,400

Sunday, February 13

Ajax 3 (Machlas 41, Knopper 56, Dani 67)
Willem II 1 (Abdellaoui pen 36) Att: 36,654

De Graafschap 1 (Viscaal 10)
Utrecht 2 (Martel 11, Lucius 40) Att: 9,200

Den Bosch 0
Twente 0 Att: 4,412

Heerenveen 0
PSV 3 (Nilis 25, Van Nistelrooy 57, Kolkka 64) Att: 13,900

Vitesse 3 (Van Hooijdonk 3, pen 33, Diarra 77)
Feyenoord 3 (Paauwe 21, Tomasson 68, Konterman 79) Att: 26,500

Tuesday, February 15

Cambuur 0
Sparta 1 (Elkhattabi 42) Att: 8,000

Friday, February 18

Fortuna 2 (Amoah 12, Gerritsen 26)
Twente 2 (Vennegoor of Hesselink 2, Ter Avest 90) Att: 7,400

Saturday, February 19

Den Bosch 2 (Uneken 68, Van der Hoorn 74)
Roda JC 2 (Zafarin 24, Peeters 88) Att: 4,033

MVV 2 (Taiwo 65, Emerson 84)
Sparta 2 (Nielsen 43, Marbus 60) Att: 5,200

NEC 3 (Pothuizen 28, Koning 52, Renfurm 90)
RKC 1 (Van der Leegte 60) Att: 7,500

PSV 3 (Van Nistelrooy 4, Bouma 30, Bruggink 71)
Vitesse 2 (Van den Brom 18, Zongo 89) Att: 29,000

Sunday, February 20

Ajax 2 (Machlas 7, Dani 22)
De Graafschap 1 (Vaisanen 4) Att: 40,000

Utrecht 2 (Robbemond 24, pen 69)
Heerenveen 2 (Talan 10, 54) Att: 13,500

Willem II 2 (Abdellaoui 70, Prommayon 81)
Feyenoord 1 (Bosvelt 64) Att: 13,500

Tuesday, February 22

AZ 4 (Huiberts 14, Opdam 47, Hernandez 76, Bosman 82)
Cambuur 0 Att: 6,400

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	23	17	2	4	71	19	53
Ajax	22	14	4	4	56	32	46
Feyenoord	22	12	7	3	43	26	43
Twente	22	11	9	2	38	21	42
Heerenveen	22	13	3	6	41	25	42
AZ	23	13	2	8	47	36	41
Vitesse	23	11	7	5	45	35	40
Willem II	22	11	4	7	37	39	37
Roda JC	21	10	4	7	35	29	34
RKC	22	10	2	10	32	42	32
Utrecht	22	9	2	11	36	41	29
Sparta	22	7	3	12	31	46	24
De Graafschap	23	4	8	11	27	38	20
NEC	22	5	4	13	28	44	19
MVV	22	4	5	13	29	47	17
Fortuna	22	3	7	12	27	38	16
Den Bosch	23	2	6	15	22	58	12
Cambuur	22	2	5	15	17	46	11

LEADING GOALSCORERS

28	Ruud Van Nistelrooy (PSV)
20	Pierre Van Hooijdonk (Vitesse)
13	Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (Twente)
12	John Bosman (AZ)
12	Richard Knopper (Ajax)
12	Nikos Machlas (Ajax)
12	Luc Nilis (PSV)
12	Bob Peeters (Roda JC)
11	Mariano Bombarda (Willem II)

DUTCH CUP – QUARTER-FINALS

Feb 16: NEC 2 Dordrecht 0; RKC 0 Vitesse 1; Utrecht 0 Roda JC 1; Willem II 1 AZ 2 (aet).

ITALY

Saturday, January 29

Lecce 2 (Lucarelli pen 7, Conticchio 69)
Verona 1 (Colucci 19) Att: 13,886

Piacenza 0
Udinese 1 (Muzzi 56) Att: 9,379

Sunday, January 30

Bologna 1 (Bia 47)
Parma 0 Att: 25,795

Fiorentina 1 (Batistuta 50)
Reggina 0 Att: 34,890

Inter 2 (Vieri 7, Baggio 41)
Roma 1 (Aldair 32) Att: 67,875

Juventus 1 (Inzaghi 1)
Cagliari 1 (Sulcis 14) Att: 36,596

Lazio 3 (Mihajlovic 2, Salas 39, Nedved 44)
Bari 1 (Spinesi 42) Att: 44,349

Perugia 0
Milan 3 (Shevchenko 70, 74, 77) Att: 16,904

Venezia 2 (Ganz 11, Berg 37)
Torino 2 (Grandoni 90, Ferrante 90) Att: 8,958

Saturday, February 5

Cagliari 2 (Berretta 34, 44)
Perugia 1 (Amoruso pen 31) Att: 17,480

Udinese 1 (Jorgensen 37)
Juventus 1 (Ferrara 76) Att: 33,501

Sunday, February 6

Lecce 0
Piacenza 1 (Rastelli 50) Att: 14,495

Milan 4 (Boban 15, Serginho 53, Innocenti og 84, Shevchenko 89)
Bari 1 (Spinesi 67) Att: 52,964

Parma 1 (Crespo pen 90)
Inter 1 (Vieri 62) Att: 28,815

Reggina 1 (Pirlo 15)
Bologna 0 Att: 24,210

Roma 5 (Candela 9, Delvecchio 12, 61, Montella 41, N'Gotty og 79)
Venezia 0 Att: 53,588

Torino 2 (Ferrante pen 83, Galante 89)
Lazio 4 (Sensini 9, Mihajlovic pen 55, Ravanelli 66, Salas 90) Att: 19,116

Verona 2 (Morfeo 49, 52)
Fiorentina 2 (Batistuta 24, Rui Costa 69) Att: 16,085

Saturday, February 12

Bari 1 (Neqrouz 44)
Verona 1 (Morfeo 39) Att: 15,533

Bologna 2 (Ingesson 58, Eriberto 60)
Milan 3 (Gattuso 32, Shevchenko 48, Bierhoff 57) Att: 34,457

Sunday, February 13

Fiorentina 1 (Batistuta 71)
Udinese 1 (Jorgensen 62) Att: 34,466

Inter 1 (Vieri 32)
Torino 1 (Mendez 20) Att: 66,294

Juventus 1 (Zidane 28)
Lecce 0 Att: 36,959

Lazio 0
Parma 0 Att: 47,126

Perugia 2 (Olive 54, 80)
Roma 2 (Nakata 24, Montella pen 42) Att: 20,959

Piacenza 0
Reggina 0 Att: 11,772

Venezia 3 (Ganz pen 47, 56, Orlandini 88)
Cagliari 0 Att: 8,458

Saturday, February 19

Reggina 1 (Baronio 51)
Perugia 1 (Esposito 45) Att: 23,318

Roma 4 (Montella 6, 80, 90, Nakata 27)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 59,788

Sunday, February 20

Lecce 1 (Lucarelli 67)
Bologna 1 (Signori 55) Att: 13,179

Milan 2 (Boban 38, 45)
Lazio 1 (Inzaghi 83) Att: 68,943

Piacenza 1 (Delli Carri 69)
Inter 3 (Blanc 20, 78, Vieri 88) Att: 15,247

Torino 1 (Ferrante 44)
Cagliari 1 (O'Neill pen 20) Att: 17,868

Udinese 5 (Giannichedda 2, Fiore 26, Sosa 31, Sottil 35, Jorgensen 68)
Bari 1 (Marcolini 8) Att: 17,990

Venezia 0
Juventus 4 (Del Piero pen 35, Inzaghi 79, 89, 90) Att: 11,965

Verona 4 (Brocchi 2, Morfeo 48, Colucci 53, Melis 80)
Parma 3 (Stanic 7, Fuser 21, Crespo 24) Att: 15,905

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	22	13	8	1	31	10	47
Milan	22	12	8	2	48	28	44
Lazio	22	12	7	3	41	21	43
Roma	22	12	6	4	48	23	42
Inter	22	12	4	6	41	20	40
Parma	22	9	7	6	34	26	34
Udinese	22	9	6	7	38	30	33
Lecce	22	7	7	8	22	30	28
Bologna	22	7	6	9	19	23	27
Fiorentina	22	6	9	7	22	28	27
Bari	22	7	6	9	26	34	27
Perugia	22	7	4	11	22	40	25
Torino	22	5	8	9	22	30	23
Reggina	22	4	10	8	20	29	22
Verona	22	5	6	11	22	35	21
Venezia	22	5	4	13	20	39	19
Cagliari	22	2	10	19	20	34	16
Piacenza	22	3	6	13	12	28	15

LEADING GOALSCORERS

16	Andrii Shevchenko (Milan)
15	Vincenzo Montella (Roma)
14	Hernan Crespo (Parma)
12	Gabriel Batistuta (Fiorentina)
12	Filippo Inzaghi (Juventus)
12	Cristiano Lucarelli (Lecce)
12	Christian Vieri (Inter)
10	Oliver Bierhoff (Milan)
10	Marco Ferrante (Torino)
10	Roberto Muzzi (Udinese)
10	Marcelo Salas (Lazio)

ITALIAN CUP – SEMI-FINALS

1st legs
Feb 9: Cagliari 1 Inter 3.
Feb 10: Lazio 5 Venezia 0.

2nd legs
Feb 16: Venezia 2 Lazio 2
Lazio 7-2 on agg.
Feb 17: Inter 1 Cagliari 2
Inter 4-3 on agg.

PORTUGAL

Sunday, January 30

Alverca 1 (Ramirez 8)
FC Porto 1 (Jorge Costa 44)

Boavista 2 (Moreira 23, Litos 45)
Campomaiorense 1 (Jorginho 63)

Estrela Amadora 1 (Lazaro 32)
Uniao Leiria 1 (Marcelino 90)

(Continued on page 44)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP – THE SQUADS

Cameroon v Algeria

CAMEROON

GOALKEEPERS

1	Boukar Alioum (Samsunspor, Tur)	
16	Daniel Bekono (Canon Yaounde) (replaced William Andem; Boavista, Por)	
22	Hamidou Souleymanou (Cotonsport)	22.11.73

DEFENDERS

2	Timotee Atouba (Union Douala)	17.08.78
3	Pierre Nlend Wome (Bologna, Ita)	26.03.79
4	Rigobert Song (Liverpool, Eng)	01.07.76
5	Raymond Kalla (Extremadura, Spa)	22.04.75
6	Pierre Njanka (Strasbourg, Fra)	15.03.75
13	Lucien Mettomo (Saint-Etienne, Fra)	19.04.77
14	Michel Pensee Bilong (Ilhwa Chunma, SKo)	16.06.73
18	Innocent Hamga (Cotonsport)	08.05.81

MIDFIELDERS

8	Geremi Njitap (Real Madrid, Spa)	20.12.78
12	Lauren Etame Mayer (Mallorca, Spa)	19.01.77
15	Joseph Ndo (Strasbourg, Fra)	28.04.76
17	Marc-Vivien Foe (West Ham, Eng)	01.05.75
19	Marcel Mahouve (Montpellier, Fra)	16.01.73
20	Salomon Olembe (Nantes, Fra)	08.12.80

FORWARDS

7	Bernard Tchoutang (Roda JC, Hol)	02.09.76
9	Samuel Eto'o (Real Madrid, Spa)	10.03.81
10	Patrick Mboma (Cagliari, Ita)	15.11.70
11	Pius N'Diefi (Sedan, Fra)	05.07.75
21	Joseph-Desire Job (Lens, Fra)	01.12.77

Coach: Pierre Lechantre (Fra)

EGYPT

GOALKEEPERS

1	Nader El Sayed (Club Brugge, Blg)	31.12.72
16	Essam El Hadari (Al Ahly)	15.01.73
22	Abdel Wahed El Sayed (Zamalek)	03.06.77

DEFENDERS

2	Ibrahim Hassan (Al Ahly)	10.08.68
3	Mohamed Omara (Hansa Rostock, Ger)	10.06.74
4	Hany Ramzy (Kaiserslautern, Ger)	10.03.69
5	Abdelzaher El Saqqa (Denizlispor, Tur)	30.01.74
7	Mohamed Youssef (Denizlispor, Tur)	09.10.70
8	Yasser Radwan (Hansa Rostock, Ger)	22.04.72
15	Ibrahim Said (Al Ahly)	16.10.79
20	Hady Khashaba (Al Ahly)	19.12.72

MIDFIELDERS

6	Sayed Abdel Hafiz (Al Ahly)	27.10.77
10	Abdelsatar Sabry (Benfica, Por)	19.06.74
13	Abdelhalim Ali (Zamalek)	24.10.73
17	Ahmed Hassan (Kocaelispor, Tur)	02.05.75
21	Ayman Abdelaziz (Zamalek)	20.11.78

FORWARDS

9	Hossam Hassan (Al Ahly)	10.08.68
11	Tarek Al-Said (Zamalek)	05.04.78
12	Hossam Abdel Moneim (Kocaelispor, Tur)	12.02.75
14	Hazem Emam (De Graafschap, Hol)	10.05.75
18	Mohamed Farouk (Al Ahly)	09.10.78
19	Ahmed Salah Hosny (Stuttgart, Ger)	11.07.79

Coach: Gerard Gili (Fra)

ALGERIA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Abdesslam Benabdellah (Mouloudia Oran)	12.01.64
16	Aomar Hamened (Mouloudia Alger)	07.02.69
22	Lyamine Bougherara (JS Kabylie)	01.12.71

DEFENDERS

2	Maamar Mamouni (Le Havre, Fra)	28.02.76
3	Abdelaziz Benhamlat (JS Kabylie)	22.03.74
4	Rezki Amrouche (Club Africain, Tun)	10.11.70
5	Mounir Zeghdoud (USM Alger)	18.11.70
6	Yacine Amaouche (JSM Bejaoa)	
13	Moulay Haddou (Mouloudia Oran)	14.06.75

MIDFIELDERS

7	Nasreddine Kraouche (Metz, Fra)	27.08.79
8	Billel Dziri (Sedan, Fra)	21.01.72
10	Abdelhafid Tasfaout (Guingamp, Fra)	11.02.69
14	Faycal Badji (CR Belouizdad)	15.02.73
17	Brahim Mezouar (CR Belouizdad)	18.02.73
18	Moussa Saib (Al Nassr, Sau)	06.03.69
20	Mahieddine Meftah (USM Alger)	25.09.68

FORWARDS

9	Farid Ghazi (Troyes, Fra)	16.03.74
11	Fawzi Moussouni (JS Kabylie)	08.04.72
12	Yacine Slatni (Mouloudia Alger)	03.11.73
15	Rafik Saifi (Troyes, Fra)	07.02.75
19	Ali Mecabih (Mouloudia Oran)	02.07.72
21	Hamid Merakchi (Genclerbirligi, Tur)	28.01.76

Coach: Nasser Sandjak (Fra)

CONGO

GOALKEEPERS

1	Brice Samba (Africa Sports, IvC)	26.03.71
16	Thierry Etouayo (ASEC Abidjan, IvC)	29.07.77
22	Barel Mouko (Manchester Congo)	05.04.79

DEFENDERS

3	Luc-Arsene Diamesso (BV Cloppenburg, Ger)	27.12.74
5	Camille Oponga (Red Star, Fra)	24.01.78
10	Elie Rock Malonga (BV Cloppenburg, Ger)	21.09.75
13	Maurice Ntounou (Pacy-sur-Eure, Fra)	13.09.72
15	Toussaint Service (Etoile du Congo)	01.11.74
18	Lucien Fils Ibara (Bureholzhausen, Ger)	07.09.74
21	Jules Tchimbakala (Le Mans, Fra)	15.01.71

MIDFIELDERS

2	Annicet Bitoumbou (Etoile du Congo)	02.02.80
4	Jean-Sylvestre Nkeoua (Africa Sports, IvC)	31.12.79
6	Bedel Moyimbouabeka (FC 105 Libreville, Gab)	08.11.77
7	Richard Bokatola-Lossombo (Karlsruhe amat., Ger)	11.04.78
8	Rock Embingou (VfL Halle, Ger)	24.09.68
14	Rolf-Christel Guie-Mien (Eintracht Frankfurt, Ger)	28.10.77
17	Modeste Eta (TP Mystere)	03.02.81

FORWARDS

9	Richard Akiana (Red Star, Fra)	20.03.69
11	Oscar Ewolo (Amiens, Fra)	09.10.78
12	Macchambes Younga-Mouhani (Fortuna Koln, Ger)	01.08.74
19	Georges Ngoma Nanitelamio (Sabe, IvC)	07.06.78
20	Francis Mackaya (VfR Aalen, Ger)	12.08.75

Coach: David Memy

GABON

GOALKEEPERS

1	Jacques Deckousshoud (FC 105 Libreville)	12.05.64
16	Germain Mendome (Aigles Verts)	21.08.70
22	Michel Souamas (Petrosport)	26.02.75

DEFENDERS

3	Tristan Mombo (FC 105 Libreville)	24.08.74
4	Jean Martin Mouloungui (unattached)	30.11.69
5	Guy Roger Nzeng (Orlando Pirates, SAf)	30.05.70
8	Constant Tamboucha (FC 105 Libreville)	03.05.76
11	Francois Amegasse (Petrosport)	10.10.65
14	Chantry Muie Nguema (Petrosport)	11.03.80
15	Eric Endo (Zarzis, Tun)	01.08.70
19	Rene Nsi-Akue (FC 105 Libreville)	09.10.75
20	Cedric Moubamba (USM Alger)	14.10.79

MIDFIELDERS

6	Dieudonne Mouyouma (CA Paris, Fra)	05.01.75
10	Jonas Ogandaga (Olympique Medenine, Tun)	01.08.75
13	Bruno Mbanangoye (Petrosport)	15.07.80
18	Dieudonne Londo (Raja Casablanca, Mor)	06.06.76

FORWARDS

2	Henri Antchouet (FC 105 Libreville)	02.08.79
7	Theodore Nzue Nguema (Sporting Braga, Por)	09.11.73
9	Daniel Cousin (Niort, Fra)	07.02.77
12	Chiva Nzighou (Nantes, Fra)	24.10.83
17	Yves Nza-Boutamba (Zarzis, Tun)	27.01.74
21	Armanel Ossey (Uniao Leiria, Por)	19.10.78

Coach: Antonio Dumas (Bra)

BURKINA FASO

GOALKEEPERS

1	Mathieu Traore (USFA)	22.04.72
16	Issoufou Sawadogo (Etoile Filante)	17.06.75
22	Abdoulaye Soulama (ASFA Yennega)	29.11.74

DEFENDERS

3	Brahima Cisse (USFA)	10.02.76
4	Issa Sanogo (ASFA Yennega)	30.11.71
5	Madou Dossama (Etoile Filante)	24.07.72
6	Brahima Korbeogo (USFA)	23.01.75
8	Mamadou Kone (Etoile Filante)	06.05.74
13	Jean-Michel Liande-Gnoka (ASFA Yennega)	20.07.80
15	Ousmane Traore (ASFA Yennega)	07.03.77

MIDFIELDERS

7	Ismael Koudou (ASFA Yennega)	27.09.75
12	Brahima Traore (Al Dhaid, Sau)	24.02.74
17	Amadou Tidiane Fall (Etoile Filante)	22.06.75
18	Rahim Ouedraogo (Twente, Hol)	08.10.80
20	Mamadou Kere (Charleroi, Blg)	02.01.82

FORWARDS

2	Seydou Traore (Al Ain, UAE)	17.05.70
9	Alassane Ouedraogo (Charleroi, Blg)	07.09.80
10	Mamadou Zongo (Vitesse Arnhem, Hol)	08.10.80
11	Ousmane Sanou (Willem II, Hol)	11.03.78
14	Moumouni Dagano (Etoile Filante)	03.01.81
19	Oumar Barro (Brondby, Den)	03.06.74
21	Abraham Loliga (ASFA Yennega)	19.06.82

Coach: Rene Taelman (Blg)

DR CONGO

GOALKEEPERS

1	Mkueni Mayala (DC Motema Pembe)	12.04.78
12	Nkombe Tokola (Vita Club)	26.03.74
22	Tusikila Mampuya (Sodigraf)	02.02.77

DEFENDERS

2	Dikulu Bageta (DC Motema Pembe)	24.03.78
3	Kabwe Kasongo (Chaves, Por)	31.07.70
4	Kitutele Yuvuladio (DC Motema Pembe)	05.05.78
5	Esele Bakasu	14.09.74
14	Michel Dinzey (1860 Munich, Ger)	15.10.72

MIDFIELDERS

6	Ndjeka Mukando (DC Motema Pembe)	17.11.79
8	Makaya Nsilulu (Esperance, Tun)	05.05.77
11	Emeka Mamale (Kaizer Chiefs, SAf)	21.10.77
16	Apataki Kifu (DC Motema Pembe)	04.09.77
19	Ndompetelo Mbabu (Vita Club)	06.03.70
20	Epotele Bazamba (AS Dragons)	13.05.76

FORWARDS

7	Jean Banza Kasongo (Wolfsburg, Ger)	26.06.74
9	Michel Ngonge (Watford, Eng)	10.01.67
10	Mputu Mbungu (Al Hilal, Sud)	21.05.80
13	Missilou Mangituka (Jets, Zim)	26.11.76
15	Joseph Londji (Koln, Ger)	
17	Kanku Mulekelayi (FC Lupopo)	01.04.77
18	Ngidi Yemwewi (DC Motema Pembe)	04.04.73
21	Mubama Kibwey (Chatellerault, Fra)	09.06.70

Coach: Basilua Lusadusu

GHANA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Richard Kingston (Goztepe, Tur)	13.07.75
12	Constance Mantey (Asante Kotoko)	31.08.76
22	Sammy Adjei (Hearts of Oak)	18.11.73

DEFENDERS

2	Eben Dugbarthey (Lorient, Fra)	31.07.73
3	Emmanuel Osei Kuffour (Hearts of Oak)	06.04.76
4	Samuel Osei Kuffour (Bayern Munich, Ger)	03.09.76
5	Stephen Baidoo (Fenerbahce, Tur)	25.09.76
6	Mohammed Gargo (Udinese, Ita)	19.06.75
8	Mark Edusei (Lecce, Ita)	29.09.76
13	Jacob Nettey (Hearts of Oak)	25.01.76
14	Christian Gyan (Feyenoord, Hol)	02.11.78
15	Samuel Johnson (Fenerbahce, Tur)	25.07.73

MIDFIELDERS

10	Charles Akonnor (Wolfsburg, Ger)	12.03.74
16	Stephen Appiah (Udinese, Ita)	24.12.80
19	Daniel Addo (Karlsruhe, Ger)	06.11.76
20	Otto Addo (Borussia Dortmund, Ger)	09.06.75
21	Alex Nyarko (Lens, Fra)	15.10.73

FORWARDS

7	Yaw Preko (Fenerbahce, Tur)	08.09.74
9	Kwame Ayew (Sporting Lisbon, Por)	28.12.73
11	Augustine Ahinful (Boavista, Por)	30.11.74
17	Peter Ofori-Quaye (Olympiakos, Gre)	21.03.80
18	Ohene Kennedy (Ankaragucu, Tur)	28.03.73

Coach: Giuseppe Dossena (Ita)

IVORY COAST

GOALKEEPERS

1	Alain Gouamene (Toulouse, Fra)	15.06.66
16	Seydou Diarra (ASEC Abidjan)	16.04.68
22	Jean-Jacques Tizie (Africa Sports)	07.09.72

DEFENDERS

3	Patrice Zere (Lokeren, Blg)	20.12.70
5	Ghislain Akassou (Lugano, Swi)	15.02.75
6	Olivier Tebily (Celtic, Sco)	19.12.75
8	Didier Angan (Nice, Fra)	27.08.74
9	Blaise Kouassi Koffi (ASEC Abidjan)	02.02.74
17	Cyrille Domoraud (Inter, Ita)	22.07.71
19	Dominique Sam Abouo (Lokeren, Blg)	26.12.73

MIDFIELDERS

2	Lassina Dao (Africa Sports)	06.02.71
4	Lassina Diabate (Bordeaux, Fra)	16.09.74
7	Ibrahima Kone (Africa Sports)	26.07.69
12	Serge Die (Reggina, Ita)	04.10.77
13	Aliou Siby Badra (ASEC Abidjan)	26.02.71
14	Tchiressoua Guel (Saint-Etienne, Fra)	27.12.75
21	Donald-Olivier Sie (Racing Club Paris, Fra)	03.04.70

FORWARDS

10	Ibrahima Bakayoko (Marseille, Fra)	31.12.76
11	Hamed Modibo Diallo (Le Havre, Fra)	18.12.76
15	Bonaventure Kalou (Feyenoord, Hol)	12.01.78
18	Charles Dago (Lokeren, Blg)	01.11.75
20	Zephirin Zoko (ASEC Abidjan)	13.09.77

Coach: Martin Gbonke Tia

SENEGAL

GOALKEEPERS

1	Oumar Diallo (OC Khourigba, Mor)	28.09.72
18	Ousseynou Ndiour (FUS Rabat, Mor)	18.03.71
22	Daouda Ly (ASC Ndiambour)	21.10.72

DEFENDERS

2	Omar Daf (Sochaux, Fra)	12.02.77
4	Papa Malick Diop (Strasbourg, Fra)	29.12.74
5	Pape Hamadou Ndiaye (ASC Ndiambour)	
9	Assane Ndiaye (Jeanne d'Arc)	01.08.74
13	Ousmane Diop (Xanthi, Gre)	09.12.75
16	Cheikh Sidy Ba (Linz ASK, Aut)	21.03.68
19	Mamadou Sylla (AS Douanes)	04.04.75

MIDFIELDERS

6	Papa Daouda Sene (CA Bizerte, Tun)	18.11.76
8	Mbaye Badji (Sporting Sale, Mor)	25.02.76
15	Pape Niokhor Fall (Jeanne d'Arc)	15.09.77
17	Pape Sarr (Saint-Etienne, Fra)	07.12.77

FORWARDS

3	Oumar Traore (unattached)	27.02.75
7	Henri Camara (Neuchatel Xamax, Swi)	10.05.77
10	Khalilou Fadiga (Club Brugge, Blg)	30.12.74
11	Salif Keita (Hannover 96, Ger)	19.10.75
12	Mame Ibra Toure (ASC Ndiambour)	23.04.71
14	Moussa Ndiaye (Monaco, Fra)	22.02.79
20	Fary Faye (Beira Mar, Por)	24.12.74
21	Abdoulaye Mbaye (Club Africain, Tun)	13.11.73

Coach: Peter Schnittger (Ger)

TUNISIA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Chokri El Ouaer (Esperance)	15.01.65
16	Radhouane Salhi (Etoile Sahel)	18.02.67
22	Naceur Bedoui (CS Sfaxien)	15.11.64

DEFENDERS

2	Khaled Badra (Esperance)	08.04.73
3	Sami Trabelsi (CS Sfaxien)	04.02.68
4	Mounir Boukadida (Waldhof Mannheim, Ger)	24.10.67
5	Hatem Trabelsi (CS Sfaxien)	25.01.77
15	Radhi Jaidi (Esperance)	30.08.75
17	Tarek Thabet (Esperance)	16.08.71

MIDFIELDERS

6	Bechir Mogaadi (Etoile Sahel)	08.11.78
7	Imed Mehdhebi (Etoile Sahel)	22.03.76
8	Zoubier Beya (Freiburg, Ger)	15.05.71
10	Kaies Ghodhbane (Etoile Sahel)	07.01.76
12	Raouf Bouzayane (Club Africain)	15.08.70
13	Riadh Bouazizi (Etoile Sahel)	08.04.73
14	Sirajeddine Chihi (Esperance)	16.04.70
19	Hassan Gabsi (Esperance)	23.02.74

FORWARDS

9	Ali Zitouni (Esperance)	11.01.81
11	Adel Sellimi (Freiburg, Ger)	16.11.72
18	Maher Kanzari (Esperance)	17.03.73
20	Zied Jaziri (Etoile Sahel)	12.07.78
21	Walid Azaiez (Esperance)	25.04.76

Coach: Francesco Scoglio (Ita)

MOROCCO

GOALKEEPERS

1	Mustapha Chadili (Raja Casablanca)	14.02.73
12	Khalid Fouhami (Dinamo Bucharest, Rom)	25.12.72
22	Abderrafie Gassi (Royal Armed Forces)	27.10.72

DEFENDERS

2	Abdelilah Saber (Sporting Lisbon, Por)	21.04.74
3	Abdelkrim El Hadrioui (AZ, Hol)	06.03.72
4	Abdelilah Fahmi (Lille, Fra)	03.08.73
5	Rachid Neqrouz (Bari, Ita)	10.04.72
6	Noureddine Naybet (La Coruna, Spa)	10.02.70
15	Lahcen Abrami (Genclerbirligi, Tur)	31.12.69
20	Taher El Khalej (Benfica, Por)	16.06.68

MIDFIELDERS

7	Mustapha Hadji (Coventry, Eng)	16.11.71
8	Said Chiba (Nancy, Fra)	28.09.70
10	Adil Ramzi (Willem II, Hol)	14.07.77
11	Hassan Kachloul (Southampton, Eng)	19.02.73
16	Youssef Mariana (Kawkab Marrakesh)	13.05.74
17	Mohamed El Badraoui (Bursaspor, Tur)	27.06.71
18	Youssef Chippo (Coventry, Eng)	10.05.73
21	Rachid Benmahmoud (Al Ain, UAE)	14.09.71

FORWARDS

9	Abdeljilil Hadda (Sporting Gijon, Spa)	21.03.72
13	Ahmed Bahja (Al Nassr, Sau)	21.12.70
14	Salaheddine Bassir (La Coruna, Spa)	05.09.72
19	Jamal Sellami (Besiktas, Tur)	06.10.70

Coach: Henri Michel (Fra)

SOUTH AFRICA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Hans Vonk (Heerenveen, Hol)	30.01.70
16	John Tlale (Mamelodi Sundowns)	15.05.67
22	Andre Arendse (Oxford Utd, Eng)	27.06.67

DEFENDERS

2	Papi Khomane (Orlando Pirates)	31.01.75
3	Frank Schoeman (Mamelodi Sundowns)	
4	Lucas Radebe (Leeds, Eng)	12.04.69
5	Mark Fish (Bolton, Eng)	14.03.74
13	Pierre Issa (Marseille, Fra)	11.09.75

MIDFIELDERS

7	Quinton Fortune (Manchester Utd, Eng)	21.05.77
8	Thabo Mngomeni (Orlando Pirates)	
10	John Moshoeu (Fenerbahce, Tur)	18.12.65
11	Helman Mkhalele (Ankaragucu, Tur)	20.10.69
12	Steve Lekoelea (Orlando Pirates)	05.02.79
18	Alex Bapela (Mamelodi Sundowns)	04.10.69
19	Dumisa Ngobe (Orlando Pirates)	05.03.73
20	Isaac Shai (Mamelodi Sundowns)	26.02.71
21	Eric Tinkler (Barnsley, Eng)	30.07.70

FORWARDS

6	Glen Salmon (NAC Breda, Hol)	24.10.77
9	Shaun Bartlett (FC Zurich, Swi)	31.10.72
14	Pollen Ndlanya (Goztepe, Tur)	22.05.70
15	Daniel Mudau (Mamelodi Sundowns)	04.09.68
17	Siyabonga Nomvete (Kaizer Chiefs)	02.12.77

Coach: Trott Moloto

ZAMBIA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Davies Phiri (Kabwe Warriors)	01.04.76
16	Emmanuel Misichili (Nkana FC)	06.06.78
22	Kenny Mwila (Power Dynamos)	01.02.72

DEFENDERS

2	Laughter Chilembi (Nchanga Rangers)	25.11.75
3	Elijah Litana (Al Hilal, Sau)	05.12.70
4	Moses Sichone (Koln, Ger)	31.05.77
5	Elija Tana (Nchanga Rangers)	28.02.75
6	Kabamba Chintu (Kabwe Warriors)	28.12.80
7	Hillary Makasa (Ajax Cape Town, SAf)	12.01.75
8	Mannaseh Mwaniza (Power Dynamos)	12.12.78
20	Jones Mwewa (Power Dynamos)	12.03.73

MIDFIELDERS

11	Kalusha Bwalya (Vera Cruz, Mex)	16.08.63
12	Andrew Tembo (Odense, Den)	19.08.71
13	Mumamba Numba (Konkola Blades)	21.03.78
14	Perry Mutapa (Farense, Por)	18.11.79
15	Rotson Kilambe (Power Dynamos)	06.08.78
17	Andrew Sinkala (Bayern Munich amat., Ger)	18.06.79
18	Mwape Miti (Odense, Den)	24.05.73
19	Arthur Lungu (Zamsure)	13.04.76

FORWARDS

9	Masauso Tembo (Al Oruba, UAE)	25.02.76
10	Dennis Lota (Orlando Pirates, SAf)	08.12.73
21	Bernard Makufi (IFK Hassleholm, Swe)	16.01.79

Coach: Ben Bamfuchile

NIGERIA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Ike Shorunmu (Besiktas, Tur)	16.10.67
12	Ndubuisi Egbo (Al Masry, Egy)	25.07.73
22	Murphy Akanji (Julius Berger)	01.12.77

DEFENDERS

2	Gbenga Okunowo (Benfica, Por)	01.03.79
3	Celestine Babayaro (Chelsea, Eng)	29.08.78
5	Furo Iyenemi (Sion, Swi) (replaced Emeka Ifejiagwa; Osasuna, Spa)	17.07.78
6	Taribo West (Milan, Ita)	26.03.74
11	Garba Lawal (Roda JC, Hol)	22.05.74
16	Efetobore Sodje (Luton, Eng)	05.10.72
21	Godwin Okpara (Paris Saint-Germain, Fra)	20.09.72

MIDFIELDERS

7	Finidi George (Betis Sevilla, Spa)	15.04.71
8	Mutiu Adepoju (Real Sociedad, Spa)	22.12.70
10	Austin Okocha (Paris Saint-Germain, Fra)	14.08.73
15	Sunday Oliseh (Juventus, Ita)	14.09.74

FORWARDS

4	Nwankwo Kanu (Arsenal, Eng)	01.08.76
9	Jonathan Akpoborie (Wolfsburg, Ger)	20.10.68
13	Tijani Babangida (Ajax, Hol)	25.09.73
14	Emmanuel Amunike (Barcelona, Spa)	25.12.70
17	Julius Aghahowa (Esperance, Tun)	12.02.82
18	Raphael Chukwu (Bari, Ita)	22.07.75
19	Benedict Akwuegbu (Grazer AK, Aut)	03.11.74
20	Victor Ikpeba (Borussia Dortmund, Ger)	12.06.73

Coach: Jo Bonfrere (Hol)

TOGO

GOALKEEPERS

1	Wake Nimombe (Goldfields, Gha)	19.02.74
16	Kossi Agassa (Etoile Filante)	
22	Kokouvi Pedomey (Entente II)	

DEFENDERS

2	Messan Amatekodo (Dynamic Togolais)	03.12.74
3	Yao Senaya (Red Star, Fra)	18.10.79
4	Massamesso Tchangai (De Graafschap, Hol)	08.08.78
5	Yaovi Abalo (Amiens, Fra)	26.06.75
7	Tadjou Salou (Servette, Swi)	24.12.74
19	Rafael Patron Akakpo (FC Brunei, Mly)	

MIDFIELDERS

6	Abibou Tchagnao (Basle, Swi)	23.05.75
8	Lantame Ouadja (Servette, Swi)	28.08.77
10	Cheriffe Maman-Toure (Al Jazira, UAE)	13.01.78
12	Yao Aziawonou (Sion, Swi)	30.11.79
13	Komlan Assignon (Cannes, Fra)	20.01.74
14	Franck Atsou (Ashanti Kotoko, Gha)	
21	Mohamed Coubageat (Maranatha)	

FORWARDS

9	Koffi Fiawoo (Lorient, Fra)	03.10.69
11	Franck Dote (Wongosport, Gab)	15.12.75
15	Abdou Moumouni (Togo Telcom)	
17	Abdelkader Coubadja (Lugano, Swi)	
20	Djima Oyawole (Louhans-Cuiseaux, Fra)	18.10.76

Coach: Gottlieb Goller (Ger) resigned after first match; replaced by assistant coach Kodjovi Mawuena

Ghana v Togo

Farense 2 (Marinescu 3, Paulo Sergio 38)
Guimaraes 1 (Brandao 30)

Gil Vicente 1 (Petit 89)
Belenenses 1 (Rui Pataca 30)

Rio Ave 2 (Artur Jorge 1, Jorge 40)
Sporting Braga 0

Salgueiros 1 (Basilio 16)
Benfica 2 (Poborsky 64, Nuno Gomes 81)

Santa Clara 0
Maritimo 0

Monday, January 31

Vitoria Setubal 1 (Makinwa 33)
Sporting Lisbon 2 (Mpenza 59, Acosta 69)

Friday, February 4

Belenenses 1 (Mario Silva og 44)
Boavista 1 (Demetrios 45)

Saturday, February 5

Campomaiorense 0
Alverca 0

Maritimo 1 (Jokanovic pen 26)
Vitoria Setubal 0

FC Porto 3 (Capucho 27, Chainho 55, Jardel 89)
Sporting Braga 0

Sporting Lisbon 3 (Acosta 10, 72, Beto 58)
Farense 1 (Quinzinho 37)

Sunday, February 6

Benfica 1 (Nuno Gomes 55)
Santa Clara 0

Guimaraes 1 (Brandao 65)
Estrela Amadora 0

Salgueiros 1 (Renato 63)
Rio Ave 1 (Hugo Henrique 12)

Uniao Leiria 1 (Derlei 73)
Gil Vicente 1 (Pedro Santos 53)

Saturday, February 12

Boavista 0
Uniao Leiria 1 (Duah 68)

Santa Clara 0
Salgueiros 0

Sunday, February 13

Alverca 1 (Ramirez 20)
Belenenses 1 (Filgueira 70)

Estrela Amadora 0
Sporting Lisbon 0

Farense 1 (Marinescu pen 39)
Maritimo 0

Gil Vicente 1 (Casquilha 23)
Guimaraes 0

Rio Ave 2 (Hugo Henrique 13, 53)
FC Porto 2 (Domingos 82, 90)

Sporting Braga 4 (Tailson 22, Odair 58, Luis Felipe 63, Silva 88)
Campomaiorense 1 (Beke 33)

Monday, February 14

Vitoria Setubal 1 (Chiquinho Conde 84)
Benfica 2 (Poborsky 36, Maniche 87)

Friday, February 18

Belenenses 0
Sporting Braga 3 (Odair 51, Barroso 57, 77)

Saturday, February 19

Campomaiorense 1 (Laelson 20)
FC Porto 0

Santa Clara 1 (George 31)
Rio Ave 0

Sporting Lisbon 1 (Acosta pen 56)
Gil Vicente 1 (Carlitos 22)

Sunday, February 20

Benfica 6 (Maniche 22, 38, 89, Nuno Gomes 43, 68, Poborsky 58)
Farense 2 (Paulo Ferreira 5, Hassan Nader 8)

Guimaraes 2 (Preto 29, Riva 87)
Boavista 0

Maritimo 2 (Toedtli 41, J Soares 86)
Estrela Amadora 2 (Eric Gaucho 16, 22)

Salgueiros 1 (Carlos Ferreira 77)
Vitoria Setubal 0

Uniao Leiria 3 (Dinda 11, Derlei 64, 89)
Alverca 0

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	22	14	6	2	44	12	48
Sporting Lisbon	22	14	6	2	38	18	48
Benfica	22	14	5	3	35	16	47
Guimaraes	22	12	4	6	35	22	40
Maritimo	22	9	7	6	25	18	34
Boavista	22	10	4	8	22	19	34
Gil Vicente	22	8	7	7	26	23	31
Belenenses	22	6	11	5	24	21	29
Estrela Amadora	22	6	10	6	23	23	28
Sporting Braga	22	8	3	11	29	30	27
Alverca	22	7	5	10	23	31	26
Salgueiros	22	7	4	11	17	26	25
Uniao Leiria	22	5	8	9	21	25	23
Campomaiorense	22	6	5	11	19	31	23
Rio Ave	22	5	7	10	24	33	22
Santa Clara	22	4	8	10	22	31	20
Farense	22	4	8	10	18	43	20
Vitoria Setubal	22	3	4	15	15	38	13

LEADING GOALSCORERS

27 Mario Jardel (FC Porto)
14 Alberto Acosta (Sporting Lisbon)
13 Eric Gaucho (Estrela Amadora)
13 Nuno Gomes (Benfica)
12 Brandao (Guimaraes)
11 Toetdli (Maritimo)
11 Hugo Henrique (Rio Ave)

PORTUGUESE CUP – 6TH RND

Jan 26: Benfica 1 Sporting Lisbon 3; Boavista 2 Felgueiras 1; Estrela Amadora 1 Dragoes Sandinenses 2; Guimaraes 3 Gil Vicente 0; Academica 0 Moreirense 1 (aet); Rio Ave 0 Naval 0 (aet); Salgueiros 1 Fafe 2 (aet).

6TH RND – REPLAY

Feb 2: Naval 2 Rio Ave 3.

QUARTER-FINALS

Feb 9: Rio Ave 1 Boavista 0; FC Porto 3 Fafe 0; Sporting Lisbon 3 Dragoes Sandinenses 0; Guimaraes 0 Moreirense 1.

SCOTLAND

Wednesday, January 26

Aberdeen 1 (Zerouali 90)
Motherwell 1 (Spencer 22) Att: 10,134

Dundee 0
Kilmarnock 0 Att: 4,039

Wednesday, February 2

Dundee Utd 0
Rangers 4 (Vidmar 8, Partridge og 22, Wallace 68, McCann 85) Att: 11,421

Saturday, February 5

Aberdeen 2 (Stavrum pen 22, Winters 50)
St Johnstone 1 (O'Neil 15) Att: 17,568

Celtic 2 (Moravcik 18, Viduka 28)
Hearts 3 (Cameron 31, pen 83, Naysmith 55) Att: 59,896

Motherwell 0
Dundee 3 (Robertson 49, Rae 66, Grady pen 90) Att: 5,865

Sunday, February 6

Hibernian 2 (Miller 49, 67)
Rangers 2 (Wallace 56, McCann 81) Att: 13,417

Saturday, February 12

Dundee 0
Celtic 3 (Mjallby 67, Viduka 69, Healey 82) Att: 10,044

Kilmarnock 0
Motherwell 2 (Spencer 66, McMillan 73) Att: 7,057

Tuesday, February 15

St Johnstone 1 (Lowndes 86)
Rangers 1 (Vidmar 58) Att: 9,605

Tuesday, February 23

Motherwell 0
Kilmarnock 4 (Cocard 28, 42, Vareille 85, 90) Att: 5,813

St Johnstone 1 (O'Halloran pen 27)
Hibernian 0 Att: 8,199

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	21	16	4	1	57	17	52
Celtic	21	14	2	5	59	20	44
Motherwell	22	8	8	6	32	39	32
Dundee Utd	21	9	4	8	25	33	31
Hibernian	23	6	9	8	34	38	27
Hearts	20	7	5	8	31	30	26
St Johnstone	22	6	7	9	22	27	25
Dundee	21	7	2	12	24	33	23
Kilmarnock	22	3	9	10	23	31	18
Aberdeen	21	4	4	13	23	62	16

LEADING GOALSCORERS

20 Mark Viduka (Celtic)
12 Billy Dodds (Rangers; 10 for Dundee Utd)
10 John Spencer (Motherwell)
9 Nathan Lowndes (St Johnstone)
9 Gary McSwegan (Hearts)
9 Michael Mols (Rangers)

SCOTTISH CUP – 3RD RND

Jan 29: Albion Rovers 1 Partick Thistle 2; Clyde 3 Raith Rovers 1; Clydebank 1 Stirling Albion 0; Dundee 0 Ayr Utd 0; Falkirk 3 Peterhead 1; Hearts 3 Stenhousemuir 2; Hibernian 4 Dunfermline 1; Queen of the South 0 Livingston 7; St Mirren 1 Aberdeen 1; Stranraer 1 Berwick Rangers 2.
Jan 30: Dundee Utd 4 Airdrie 1; Morton 1 Brechin 1; St Johnstone 0 Rangers 2.
Feb 1: Arbroath 1 Motherwell 1.
Feb 5: Kilmarnock 0 Alloa 0.
Feb 8: Celtic 1 Inverness Caledonian Thistle 3.

3RD RND – REPLAYS

Feb 8: Aberdeen 2 St Mirren 0; Brechin 0 Morton 0 (aet) *Morton on pens.*
Feb 9: Alloa 1 Kilmarnock 0.
Feb 15: Ayr 1 Dundee 1 (aet) *Ayr on pens.*
Feb 19: Motherwell 2 Arbroath 0;

4TH RND

Feb 19: Alloa 2 Dundee Utd 2; Berwick 0 Falkirk 0; Clyde 0 Hearts 2; Morton 0 Rangers 1; Hibernian 1 Clydebank 1; Partick Thistle 2 Livingston 1.
Feb 20: Inverness Caledonian Thistle 1 Aberdeen 1.

LEAGUE CUP – SEMI-FINALS

Feb 13: Aberdeen 1 Dundee Utd 0.
Feb 16: Celtic 1 Kilmarnock 0.

SPAIN

Wednesday, January 26

Real Madrid 2 (Guti 47, Morientes 78)
Betis Sevilla 1 (Prats 83) Att: 30,000

Saturday, January 29

Celta Vigo 0
Atletico Madrid 1 (Valeron 29) Att: 20,000

Espanyol 1 (Benitez 21)
Barcelona 1 (Kluivert 45) Att: 33,400

Sunday, January 30

Alaves 0
Valencia 1 (Farinos pen 70) Att: 17,500

Betis Sevilla 0
Malaga 0 Att: 40,000

Numancia 3 (Pacheta 1, 4, Castano pen 39)
Mallorca 1 (Diego Tristan 12) Att: 8,500

Racing Santander 3 (Munitis 18, Vivar Dorado 21, Espina 59)
Oviedo 1 (Amieva 88) Att: 14,000

Real Madrid 3 (Guti 40, Morientes 60, Raul 85)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (J Etxeberria 44) Att: 47,000

Real Sociedad 2 (Jankauskas 4, De Paula 40)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Ferron 66) Att: 23,000

Valladolid 4 (Caminero 20, Victor 56, 68, 89)
La Coruna 1 (Turu Flores pen 78) Att: 16,000

Zaragoza 2 (Juanele 3, Aguado 54)
Sevilla 1 (Tsartas 77) Att: 20,000

Saturday, February 5

Valencia 3 (Ilie 2, Mendieta pen 81, Farinos 83)
Betis Sevilla 1 (Filipescu 60) Att: 40,000

Sunday, February 6

Athletic Bilbao 2 (Urzaiz 7, Pacheta og 77)
Numancia 1 (Pacheta 23) Att: 38,000

Atletico Madrid 2 (Hasselbaink pen 19, 55)
Zaragoza 2 (Yordi 80, Garitano 82) Att: 35,000

Barcelona 0
Alaves 1 (Nan Ribera 15) Att: 60,000

La Coruna 5 (Makaay 7, Djalminha 18, Victor 48, Turu Flores 75, 85)
Real Madrid 2 (Morientes 36, Hierro 90) Att: 35,000

Malaga 0
Valladolid 0 Att: 25,000

Mallorca 2 (Carlos 14, Armando 51)
Real Sociedad 1 (Aramburu 88) Att: 15,000

Oviedo 1 (Ruben 76)
Espanyol 0 Att: 11,177

Rayo Vallecano 1 (Ferron 26)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 9,000

Sevilla 1 (Zalayeta 63)
Racing Santander 0 Att: 35,000

Saturday, February 12

Athletic Bilbao 1 (Diego Tristan og 65)
Mallorca 1 (Diego Tristan 22) Att: 30,000

Real Madrid 1 (Zarate 50)
Malaga 0 Att: 70,000

Valladolid 0
Valencia 0 Att: 13,000

Sunday, February 13

Alaves 1 (Desio 25)
Oviedo 0 Att: 16,000

Betis Sevilla 2 (Ito 7, Alfonso 78)
Barcelona 1 (Kluivert 86) Att: 45,000

Celta Vigo 4 (Fuentes og 59, Sergio 62, Gustavo Lopez 76, 89)
Real Sociedad 1 (De Paula 22) Att: 22,000

Espanyol 2 (Tamudo 2, 67)
Sevilla 2 (Tsartas pen 26, pen 85) Att: 17,200

Numancia 1 (Pacheta 53)
La Coruna 0 Att: 9,500

Racing Santander 2 (Vivar Dorado 35, 51)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Roberto 5) Att: 14,000

Zaragoza 1 (Yordi 14)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Michel II 82) Att: 19,000

Tuesday, February 15

Valladolid 0
Real Madrid 1 (Meca 85) Att: 15,000

Saturday, February 19

La Coruna 2 (Flavio Conceicao 43, Ferreira og 59)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 32,000

Sunday, February 20

Atletico Madrid 1 (Hasselbaink 41)
Espanyol 1 (Tamudo 54) Att: 30,000

Barcelona 4 (R De Boer 25, Heinze og 44, Rivaldo 49, 69)
Valladolid 0 Att: 55,000

Malaga 3 (Catanha 15, De los Santos 74, Edgar 75)
Numancia 1 (Rivera 41) Att: 25,000

Mallorca 1 (Diego Tristan 90)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 18,400

Oviedo 1 (Ruben 82)
Betis Sevilla 1 (Alfonso 19) Att: 12,128

Rayo Vallecano 1 (Michel 37)
Racing Santander 2 (Ismael 39, Arzeno 89) Att: 9,000

Real Sociedad 2 (Aramburu 7, Loren 90)
Zaragoza 1 (Garitano pen 84) Att: 30,000

Sevilla 2 (Juan Carlos 42, Zalayeta 77)
Alaves 2 (Kodro pen 26, Astudillo 90) Att: 43,000

Valencia 1 (Ilie 35)
Real Madrid 1 (Guti 54) Att: 50,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
La Coruna	25	14	4	7	44	31	46
Barcelona	25	12	5	8	48	31	41
Zaragoza	25	10	10	5	42	27	40
Real Madrid	25	10	10	5	41	38	40
Alaves	25	11	6	8	29	27	39
Celta Vigo	25	12	2	11	35	31	38
Mallorca	25	10	6	9	33	32	36
Athletic Bilbao	25	9	9	7	35	37	36
Valencia	25	9	8	8	33	26	35
Rayo Vallecano	25	10	4	11	34	35	34
Numancia	25	9	7	9	34	39	34
Racing Santander	25	8	8	9	39	36	32
Malaga	25	8	8	9	36	34	32
Betis Sevilla	25	9	4	12	24	39	31
Atletico Madrid	25	8	6	11	38	40	30
Espanyol	25	7	8	10	35	37	29
Valladolid	25	7	8	10	22	30	29
Real Sociedad	25	6	10	9	28	34	28
Oviedo	25	7	7	11	25	39	28
Sevilla	25	4	10	11	28	40	22

LEADING GOALSCORERS

21 Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Atletico Madrid)
21 Salva (Racing Santander)
18 Savo Milosevic (Zaragoza)
16 Catanha (Malaga)
13 Diego Tristan (Mallorca)
12 Roy Makaay (La Coruna)
12 Raul (Real Madrid)
11 Rivaldo (Barcelona)
11 Victor (Valladolid)

SPANISH CUP – 4TH RND

2nd legs
Feb 1: Celta Vigo 0 Espanyol 1
Espanyol 3-1 on agg.
Feb 2: Atletico Madrid 2 Real Union 0
Atletico Madrid 5-0 on agg;
Barcelona 0 Ourense 0
Barcelona 2-1 on agg;
La Coruna 0 Osasuna 1
Osasuna 2-0 on agg;
Rayo Vallecano 3 Lleida 1
Rayo Vallecano 6-3 on agg;
Oviedo 0 Merida 0
Merida 1-0 on agg;
Villarreal 3 Compostela 0
Agg 3-3. Compostela on pens.
Feb 3: Real Madrid 2 Zaragoza 0
Real Madrid 2-0 on agg.

QUARTER-FINALS

1st legs
Feb 9: Atletico Madrid 0 Rayo Vallecano 0;
Espanyol 5 Compostela 1;
Real Madrid 1 Merida 0.
Feb 10: Osasuna 0 Barcelona 4.

2nd legs
Feb 16: Barcelona 2 Osasuna 0
Barcelona 6-0 on agg;
Compostela 1 Espanyol 0
Espanyol 5-2 on agg;
Rayo Vallecano 2 Atletico Madrid 2
Agg 2-2. Atletico on away goals.
Feb 17: Merida 2 Real Madrid 1
Agg 2-2. Real Madrid on away goals.

TURKEY

Jan 28: Trabzonspor 0 Adanaspor 1; Vanspor 1 Fenerbahce 2.
Jan 29: Kocaelispor 2 Goztepe 0; Istanbulspor 0 Antalyaspor 0; Ankaragucu 1 Samsunspor 2; Besiktas 4 Genclerbirligi 0.
Jan 30: Altay 1 Bursaspor 2; Denizlispor 2 Erzurum 1; Gaziantepspor 0 Galatasaray 1.
Feb 2: Vanspor 1 Goztepe 0.
Feb 4: Samsunspor 0 Besiktas 2.
Feb 5: Bursaspor 1 Istanbulspor 0; Genclerbirligi 3 Denizlispor 1; Kocaelispor 1 Fenerbahce 1.
Feb 6: Erzurum 2 Vanspor 0; Galatasaray 2 Trabzonspor 0; Antalyaspor 0 Gaziantepspor 0; Goztepe 0 Altay 1; Adanaspor 2 Ankaragucu 2.
Feb 11: Denizlispor 0 Besiktas 2.
Feb 12: Vanspor 2 Genclerbirligi 5; Adanaspor 0 Samsunspor 1; Kocaelispor 4 Erzurum 0; Gaziantepspor 1 Bursaspor 1; Altay 2 Fenerbahce 3; Trabzonspor 2 Antalyaspor 0.
Feb 13: Istanbulspor 3 Goztepe 0; Ankaragucu 0 Galatasaray 2.
Feb 18: Besiktas 2 Vanspor 1.
Feb 19: Fenerbahce 1 Istanbulspor 0; Kocaelispor 0 Genclerbirligi 0; Goztepe 0 Gaziantepspor 1; Samsunspor 6 Denizlispor 2.
Feb 20: Galatasaray 4 Adanaspor 0; Erzurum 0 Altay 0; Bursaspor 2 Trabzonspor 3; Antalyaspor 0 Ankaragucu 0.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	21	17	3	1	45	14	54
Besiktas	21	13	4	4	41	13	43
Fenerbahce	21	10	9	2	36	22	39
Gaziantepspor	21	9	8	4	26	15	35
Trabzonspor	21	8	7	6	27	22	31
Samsunspor	21	9	3	9	29	27	30
Genclerbirligi	21	8	6	7	28	30	30
Denizlispor	21	8	6	7	34	37	30
Altay	21	8	5	8	27	24	29
Antalyaspor	21	7	6	8	24	33	27
Adanaspor	21	7	5	9	28	33	26
Ankaragucu	21	6	6	9	28	35	24
Bursaspor	21	6	5	10	27	31	23
Istanbulspor	21	5	8	8	22	26	23
Erzurum	21	6	5	10	23	35	23
Kocaelispor	21	5	5	11	25	38	20
Goztepe	21	4	5	12	15	30	17
Vanspor	21	3	4	14	22	42	13

LEADING GOALSCORERS

16 Serkan Aykut (Samsunspor)
13 Cafer Aydin (Ankaragucu; 3 for Adanaspor)
13 Ahmet Dursun (Besiktas)
11 Elvir Bolic (Fenerbahce)
10 Umit Karan (Genclerbirligi)
10 Viorel Moldovan (Fenerbahce)

YUGOSLAVIA

Feb 12: Sutjeska 0 Cukaricki 0; Radnicki N 2 Hajduk B 0; Spartak 1 Proleter 3; Radnicki K 2 Vojvodina 1; OFK 1 Hajduk K 0; Rad 2 Obilic 3; Buducnost 4 Mogren 1; Zemun 0 Sartid 0; Zeleznik 2 Milicionar 2; Red Star 4 Borac 0.
Feb 16: Borac 2 Zeleznik 1; Milicionar 1 Zemun 0; Sartid 2 Buducnost 0; Mogren 1 Rad 2; Obilic 2 OFK 2; Hajduk K 0 Radnicki K 1; Vojvodina 4 Spartak 1; Proleter 0 Radnicki N 0; Cukaricki 0 Partizan 2; Hajduk B 2 Sutjeska 0.
Feb 19: Partizan 4 Hajduk B 2; Sutjeska 3 Proleter 1; Radnicki N 2 Vojvodina 1; Spartak 1 Hajduk K 3; Radnicki K 0 Obilic 0; OFK 3 Mogren 1; Rad 0 Sartid 1; Buducnost 2 Milicionar 1; Zemun 2 Borac 1; Zeleznik 1 Red Star 3.

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Obilic	23	18	4	1	44	16	58
Partizan	22	18	3	1	55	17	57
Red Star	22	16	5	1	52	14	53
Milicionar	23	10	5	8	37	30	35
OFK	23	9	7	7	36	35	34
Rad	23	9	6	8	35	30	33
Buducnost	22	10	3	9	29	25	33
Radnicki K	23	9	6	8	22	26	33
Sutjeska	23	9	5	9	31	36	32
Zeleznik	23	8	6	9	29	28	30
Radnicki N	23	9	3	11	28	31	30
Vojvodina	23	9	2	12	34	32	29
Zemun	23	8	5	10	29	36	29
Proleter	23	6	9	8	21	26	27
Hajduk K	23	7	5	11	20	24	26
Cukaricki	21	7	5	9	21	26	26
Hajduk B	23	8	2	13	35	45	26
Sartid	23	6	5	12	21	29	23
Mogren	23	6	4	13	21	43	22
Spartak	23	4	5	14	16	43	17
Borac	23	4	3	16	28	52	15

LEADING GOALSCORERS

14 Bogic Popovic (Hajduk B)
13 Sasa Ilic (Partizan)
12 Mateja Kezman (Partizan)
12 Mihajlo Pjanovic (Red Star)
11 Milan Radojicic (Milicionar)

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

February 11-14

Independiente 1 (Martinez 50)
Boca Juniors 3 (Bermudez 25, Barijho 52, Arruabarrena 90)

San Lorenzo 1 (Lopez 5)
Newell's Old Boys 0

Estudiantes 1 (Brown 32)
Argentinos Juniors 1 (Schiavi 43)

Chacarita Juniors 1 (Risso 17)
Gimnasia LP 2 (Alonso 20, Sanchez 60)

Instituto Cordoba 1 (Jimenez pen 28)
River Plate 2 (Alvarez 20, 88)

Colon Santa Fe 1 (Fuertes 32)
Velez Sarsfield 0

Rosario Central 2 (Rivarola 31, Sandy og 84)
Gimnasia J 0

Racing Club 3 (Estevez 6, 72, Cordone 62)
Talleres Cordoba 1 (Astudillo 1)

Belgrano Cordoba 2 (Villarreal 42, 48)
Lanus 4 (Alvarez 6, Klimowicz 84, 86, Betancourt 89)

Ferro Carril Oeste 2 (Hernandez 12, Rodriguez 26)
Union Santa Fe 3 (Domizi 44, Pratola 58, Sartori og 88)

ARGENTINA – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lanus	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Boca Juniors	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Racing Club	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Rosario Central	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Union Santa Fe	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Gimnasia LP	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
River Plate	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Colon Santa Fe	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
San Lorenzo	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Argentinos Juniors	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Estudiantes	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Ferro Carril Oeste	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Chacarita Juniors	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Instituto Cordoba	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Newell's Old Boys	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Velez Sarsfield	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Belgrano Cordoba	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Independiente	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Talleres Cordoba	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Gimnasia J	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

BOLIVIA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Feb 5: Blooming 1 Atletico Pompeya 0.
Feb 6: The Strongest 1 Mariscal Braun 0; Real Potosi 3 Santa Cruz 0; Independiente 4 Guabira 0; Union Central 0 Bolivar 2.
Feb 12: Mariscal Braun 2 Oriente 2; Santa Cruz 1 The Strongest 2.
Feb 13: Atletico Pompeya 3 Union Central 2; Blooming 2 Jorge Wilstermann 0; Bolivar 1 Independiente 4; Guabira 4 Real Potosi 0.
Feb 16: Atletico Pompeya 0 Santa Cruz 0; Blooming 5 Mariscal Braun 2; Real Potosi 3 Jorge Wilstermann 1; Union Central 1 Oriente 1.
Feb 19: The Strongest 4 Guabira 0.
Feb 20: Independiente 3 Atletico Pompeya 1; Oriente 3 Santa Cruz 0; Real Potosi 3 Bolivar 2; Union Central 0 Blooming 1; Jorge Wilstermann 3 Mariscal Braun 0.

BOLIVIA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blooming	4	4	0	0	9	2	12
Independiente	3	3	0	0	11	2	9
The Strongest	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Real Potosi	4	3	0	1	9	7	9
Oriente	3	1	2	0	6	3	5
Atletico Pompeya	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
J Wilstermann	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Bolivar	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Guabira	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
Union Central	4	0	1	3	3	7	1
Mariscal Braun	4	0	1	3	4	11	1
Santa Cruz	4	0	1	3	1	8	1

CHILE

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Feb 19: Palestino 1 Coquimbo Unido 0; Cobreloa 1 Everton 2; U Catolica 1 Santiago Morning 0; Huachipato 0 Colo Colo 0.
Feb 20: Santiago Wanderers 0 Audax Italiano 3; Puerto Montt 1 Provincial Osorno 0; Union Espanola 5 O'Higgins 2; U de Chile 0 Dep Concepcion 0.

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Everton	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Palestino	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Cobreloa	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Coquimbo Unido	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Audax Italiano	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
U Catolica	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Santiago Morning	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Santiago Wanderers	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Puerto Montt	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Colo Colo	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Huachipato	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Provincial Osorno	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Union Espanola	1	1	0	0	5	2	3
Dep Concepcion	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
U de Chile	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
O'Higgins	1	0	0	1	2	5	0

ECUADOR

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Feb 12: Emelec 2 Macara 1; LDU 4 El Nacional 1.
Feb 13: Aucas 1 Barcelona 0; Tecnico Univ 2 Dep Quito 2; Olmedo 2 Espoli 0.
Feb 18: Barcelona 0 LDU 0.
Feb 19: Espoli 3 Tecnico Univ 1.
Feb 20: Macara 1 Aucas 2; Dep Quito 1 Emelec 1; El Nacional 1 Olmedo 0.

ECUADOR – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aucas	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
LDU	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Emelec	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Olmedo	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Espoli	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
El Nacional	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Dep Quito	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Barcelona	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Tecnico Univ	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Macara	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

PERU

Feb 5: Dep Municipal 0 Cienciano 1; Sporting Cristal 3 Alianza Atletico 1.
Feb 6: Melgar 0 Universitario 0; Union Minas 2 Sport Boys 0; Dep UPAO 1 Juan Aurich 1; Alianza Lima 2 Dep Pesquero 2.
Feb 13: Sport Boys 1 Sporting Cristal 0; Alianza Atletico 2 Universitario 3; Cienciano 0 Alianza Lima 0; Union Minas 1 Dep Municipal 0; Dep Pesquero 1 Dep UPAO 0; Juan Aurich 3 Melgar 2.
Feb 18: Sporting Cristal 2 Dep Municipal 1; Universitario 2 Sport Boys 2.
Feb 19: Melgar 3 Dep Pesquero 0.
Feb 20: Dep UPAO 0 Cienciano 1; Juan Aurich 0 Alianza Atletico 0; Alianza Lima 2 Union Minas 0.

PERU

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cienciano	3	2	1	0	2	0	7
Sporting Cristal	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Union Minas	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Alianza Lima	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Universitario	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Juan Aurich	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Melgar	3	1	1	1	5	3	4
Sport Boys	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Dep Pesquero	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
Dep UPAO	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
Alianza Atletico	3	0	1	2	3	6	1
Dep Municipal	3	0	0	3	1	4	0

URUGUAY

Feb 18: Racing 1 Rocha 1.
Feb 19: Penarol 3 Cerro 4.
Feb 20: Nacional 1 Dep Maldonado 0; Danubio 2 Bella Vista P 0; Frontera Rivera 1 Defensor 3; Tacuarembo 1 Juventud 0; Rentistas 2 Villa Espanola 1; Bella Vista M 1 Liverpool 0; River Plate 0 Huracan Buceo 0.

URUGUAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Defensor	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Danubio	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Cerro	1	1	0	0	4	3	3
Rentistas	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Bella Vista M	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Nacional	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Tacuarembo	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Racing	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Rocha	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Huracan Buceo	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
River Plate	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Penarol	1	0	0	1	3	4	0
Villa Espanola	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Juventud	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Liverpool	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Dep Maldonado	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Frontera Rivera	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Bella Vista P	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

VENEZUELA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Jan 26: Llaneros 0 Ital-Chacao 10.
Jan 30: Nacional 1 Caracas 2; Mineros Guayana 2 Llaneros 0; FCU-ULA 2 Trujillanos 1; Carabobo 2 Estudiantes 2; Ital-Chacao 2 Dep Tachira 1.
Feb 3: Caracas 1 Estudiantes 2; Zulianos 0 Llaneros 0; Dep Tachira 1 Carabobo 0; Trujillanos 2 Mineros Guayana 1; Inter El Vigia 2 Nacional 0; FCU-ULA 0 Ital-Chacao 1.
Feb 6: Llaneros 0 Estudiantes 1; Trujillanos 2 Nacional 1; FCU-ULA 3 Zulianos 0; Inter El Vigia 2 Ital-Chacao 1; Dep Tachira 2 Mineros Guayana 0; Caracas 3 Carabobo 0.
Feb 9: Estudiantes 1 Dep Tachira 1; Ital-Chacao 1 Zulianos 0; Nacional 1 FCU-ULA 1; Mineros Guayana 4 Inter El Vigia 2; Carabobo 0 Trujillanos 0; Llaneros 0 Caracas 3.
Feb 13: Zulianos 1 Nacional 2; Ital-Chacao 0 Mineros Guayana 0; FCU-ULA 3 Carabobo 0; Inter El Vigia 0 Estudiantes 1; Dep Tachira 2 Caracas 0; Trujillanos 0 Llaneros 0.
Feb 20: Mineros Guayana 0 Zulianos 0; Caracas 2 Inter El Vigia 0; Estudiantes 0 Ital-Chacao 1; Carabobo 3 Nacional 0; Llaneros 2 FCU-ULA 1; Dep Tachira 1 Trujillanos 0.
Feb 23: Zulianos 0 Carabobo 1; Mineros Guayana 3 Estudiantes 1; Nacional 2 Llaneros 1; FCU-ULA 0 Dep Tachira 2; Inter El Vigia 4 Trujillanos 3; Ital-Chacao 2 Caracas 1.

VENEZUELA – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ital-Chacao	8	6	1	1	18	4	19
Dep Tachira	7	5	1	1	10	3	16
Caracas	8	5	0	3	13	7	15
Estudiantes	8	4	2	2	9	8	14
Mineros Guayana	8	3	2	3	10	10	11
Carabobo	8	3	2	3	9	9	11
FCU-ULA	8	3	1	4	10	8	10
Inter El Vigia	6	3	0	3	10	11	9
Trujillanos	8	2	3	3	8	9	9
Nacional	8	2	1	5	7	13	7
Llaneros	8	1	2	5	3	19	5
Zulianos	7	0	3	4	1	7	3

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

MEXICO

SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP

Jan 29: Toluca 2 Atletico Morelia 1; Cruz Azul 5 Tecos UAG 1; Monterrey 0 Santos 0; Atletico Celaya 3 America 1; Atlas 6 Toros Neza 1.
Jan 30: Guadalajara 1 Puebla 1; Pachuca 0 Necaxa 4; Leon 0 Tigres 0; Atlante 0 Pumas UNAM 1.
Feb 4: Tecos UAG 1 Pachuca 0.
Feb 5: Tigres 0 Guadalajara 1; Puebla 4 Atlante 0.
Feb 6: Atletico Morelia 5 Monterrey 0; Pumas UNAM 3 Toluca 6; Toros Neza 4 Atletico Celaya 3; Santos 3 Cruz Azul 1; America 4 Leon 2.
Feb 11: Tecos UAG 4 Necaxa 1.
Feb 12: Toluca 5 Puebla 0; Monterrey 3 Pumas UNAM 2; Atletico Celaya 2 Atlas 2.
Feb 13: Leon 1 Toros Neza 2; Pachuca 1 Santos 1; Guadalajara 3 America 0.
Feb 14: Atlante 1 Tigres 3.
Feb 16: Necaxa 3 Atlas 2.
Feb 19: Necaxa 1 Atletico Celaya 1; Tigres 2 Toluca 1; Puebla 4 Monterrey 2; Atlas 2 Leon 0.
Feb 20: Toros Neza 1 Guadalajara 3; Atletico Morelia 1 Pachuca 1; Santos 2 Tecos UAG 0; America 1 Atlante 1.

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toluca	6	4	0	2	17	10	12
Tecos UAG	6	2	0	4	6	10	6
Toros Neza	6	2	0	4	9	20	6
Pumas UNAM	5	1	2	2	7	10	5
Leon	6	0	2	4	5	11	2

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Puebla	6	3	1	2	12	11	10
Monterrey	6	3	1	2	8	12	10
Atletico Celaya	6	2	3	1	11	9	9
Atletico Morelia	5	2	1	2	11	8	7
Cruz Azul	4	1	0	3	8	10	3

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Santos	6	4	2	0	12	5	14
America	6	3	1	2	15	10	10
Atlas	6	2	1	3	13	14	7
Atlante	6	0	1	5	4	14	1

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guadalajara	6	4	2	0	12	3	14
Necaxa	6	4	1	1	14	8	13
Tigres	6	3	2	1	9	3	11
Pachuca	6	1	2	3	6	11	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS

6	Claudio Nunez (Tigres)
6	Agustin Delgado (Necaxa)
5	Cuauhtemoc Blanco (America)
4	Jared Borguetti (Santos)
4	Carlos Morales (Toluca)

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1st legs
Jan 29-30: Tusker (Ken) 1 Red Sea (Eri) 1; SC Villa (Uga) 2 St George (Eth) 2; Vital'O (Brd) 4 Bata Bullets (Mwi) 0; Dragons l'Oueme (Ben) 2 Port Authority (Gam) 0; Sporting Praia Cruz (CVI) 2 Tempete Mocaf (CAR) 3; Primeiro Agosto (Ang) 4 Akonangui (EqG) 0; Horoya (Gui) 2 SC Bissau (GuB) 0; Notwane (Bot) 1 Black Africa (Nam) 1; Vacoas (Mrs) 1 St Michel Utd (Sey) 1; Fortior (Mad) 0 Defence Force (Les) 0; Al Ahli (Lby) 4 Olympic (Ngr) 0; APR FC (Rwa) 1 Renaissance (Chd) 1; Ferroviario Maputo (Moz) 1 Prisons (Tan) 0.

2nd legs
Feb 11-14: Red Sea 1 Tusker 1
Agg 2-2. Tusker 6-5 on pens;
St George 3 SC Villa 0
St George 5-2 on agg;
Bata Bullets 0 Vital'O 1
Vital'O 5-0 on agg;
Port Authority 1 Dragons l'Oueme 1
Dragons 3-1 on agg;
Tempete Mocaf 1 Sporting Praia Cruz 0
Tempete 4-2 on agg;
Akonangui 0 Primeiro Agosto 1
Primeiro Agosto 5-0 on agg;
SC Bissau 1 Horoya 1
Horoya 3-1 on agg;
Black Africa 4 Notwane 2
Black Africa 5-3 on agg;
St Michel Utd 1 Vacoas 2
Vacoas 3-2 on agg;
Defence Force 0 Fortior 0
Agg 0-0. Defence Force 3-2 on pens;
Olympic 1 Al Ahli 2
Al Ahli 6-1 on agg;
Renaissance 1 APR FC 1
Agg 2-2. APR 3-2 on pens;
Prisons 3 Ferroviario Maputo 2
Agg 3-3. Ferroviario on away goals.

LPRC Oilers (Lbr) withdrew and were replaced by Ferroviario Maputo.

CUP-WINNERS CUP

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1st legs
Jan 29-30: Cotonchad (Chd) 2 Jeunesse Sportive (Ngr) 1; Wallidan (Gam) 0 Mogas '90 (Ben) 1; Real Olympique 1 Rayon Sports (Rwa) 1; FC Djivan (Mad) 0 Red Star (Sey) 0; Mogoditshane Life Fighters (Bot) 1 Linare (Les) 0; Chief Santos (Nam) 1 Sagrada Esperanca (Ang) 3.

2nd legs
Feb 12-13: Jeunesse Sportive 1 Cotonchad 0
Agg 2-2. Jeunesse on away goals;
Mogas '90 2 Wallidan 0
Mogas 3-0 on agg;
Red Star 0 FC Djivan 0
Agg 0-0. FC Djivan 2-0 on pens;
Linare 0 Mogoditshane Life Fighters 0
Life Fighters 1-0 on agg;
Sagrada Esperance 4 Chief Santos 2
Sagrada 7-3 on agg.

Real Olympique withdrew from second leg; Rayon Sports go through.

CAF CUP

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1st leg
Jan 31: Chingale (Moz) 0 El Nguema (EqG) 1.

2nd leg
Feb 14: El Nguema 0 Chingale 1
Agg 1-1. Chingale 4-2 on pens.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP 2002

PRELIMINARY ROUND DRAW

Guinea Bissau v Morocco;
Gambia v Guinea;
Equatorial Guinea v Angola;
Cape Verde Islands v Liberia;
Mauritania v Burkina Faso;
Sierra Leone v Togo;
Benin v Namibia;
Niger v Ivory Coast;
Sao Tome e Principe v Gabon;
Central African Republic v DR Congo;
Sudan v Eritrea;
Rwanda v Congo;
Djibouti v Burundi;
Botswana v Madagacar;
Chad v Libya;
Ethiopia v Zambia;
Seychelles v Zimbabwe;
Tanzania v Mauritius;
Uganda v Malawi;
Lesotho v Mozambique;
Swaziland v Kenya.

1st legs, July 1-2; 2nd legs, July 15-16.

Byes to group stage: Algeria, Egypt, Ghana, Senegal, South Africa, Tunsia, Nigeria.

ASIA

CHAMPIONS CUP

QUARTER-FINALS

WEST ASIA ZONE (in Riyadh)

Feb 7: Al Hilal (Sau) 2 Irtysh Pavlodar (Kaz) 0; Pirouzi (Irn) 0 Police Club (Irq) 0.
Feb 9: Police Club 0 Al Hilal 1; Pirouzi 1 Irtysh Pavlodar 0.
Feb 11: Police Club 3 Irtysh Pavlodar 2; Al Hilal 0 Pirouzi 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Hilal	3	2	1	0	3	0	7
Pirouzi	3	1	2	0	1	0	5
Police Club	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Irtysh Pavlodar	3	0	0	3	2	6	0

WORLD CUP QUALIFYING FIXTURES

EUROPE

Group 1

Yugoslavia, Russia, Switzerland, Slovenia, Luxembourg, Faroe Islands

02.09.00.....Faroe Islands-Slovenia
02.09.00.....Luxembourg-Yugoslavia
02.09.00.....Switzerland-Russia
07.10.00.....Luxembourg-Slovenia
07.10.00.....Switzerland-Faroe Islands
07.10.00.....Yugoslavia-Russia
11.10.00.....Russia-Luxembourg
11.10.00.....Slovenia-Switzerland
11.10.00.....Yugoslavia-Faroe Islands
24.03.01.....Luxembourg-Faroe Islands
24.03.01.....Russia-Slovenia
24.03.01.....Yugoslavia-Switzerland
28.03.01.....Russia-Faroe Islands
28.03.01.....Slovenia-Yugoslavia
28.03.01.....Switzerland-Luxembourg
02.06.01.....Faroe Islands-Switzerland
02.06.01.....Russia-Yugoslavia
02.06.01.....Slovenia-Luxembourg
06.06.01.....Faroe Islands-Yugoslavia
06.06.01.....Luxembourg-Russia

06.06.01 .....Switzerland-Slovenia
01.09.01 .....Faroe Islands-Luxembourg
01.09.01 .....Slovenia-Russia
01.09.01 .....Switzerland-Yugoslavia
05.09.01 .....Faroe Islands-Russia
05.09.01 .....Luxembourg-Switzerland
05.09.01 .....Yugoslavia-Slovenia
06.10.01 .....Russia-Switzerland
06.10.01 .....Slovenia-Faroe Islands
06.10.01 .....Yugoslavia-Luxembourg

Group 4

Sweden, Turkey, Slovakia, Macedonia, Azerbaijan, Moldova

02/03.09.00 ..Azerbaijan-Sweden
02/03.09.00 ..Slovakia-Macedonia
02/03.09.00 ..Turkey-Moldova
07/08.10.00 ..Macedonia-Azerbaijan
07/08.10.00 ..Moldova-Slovakia
07/08.10.00 ..Sweden-Turkey
10/11.10.00 ..Azerbaijan-Turkey
10/11.10.00 ..Moldova-Macedonia
10/11.10.00 ..Slovakia-Sweden
24/25.03.01 ..Azerbaijan-Moldova
24/25.03.01 ..Sweden-Macedonia
24/25.03.01 ..Turkey-Slovakia
27/28.03.01 ..Macedonia-Turkey
27/28.03.01 ..Moldova-Sweden
27/28.03.01 ..Slovakia-Azerbaijan
02/03.06.01 ..Macedonia-Moldova
02/03.06.01 ..Sweden-Slovakia
02/03.06.01 ..Turkey-Azerbaijan
05/06.06.01 ..Azerbaijan-Slovakia
05/06.06.01 ..Sweden-Moldova
05/06.06.01 ..Turkey-Macedonia
01/02.09.01 ..Macedonia-Sweden
01/02.09.01 ..Moldova-Azerbaijan
01/02.09.01 ..Slovakia-Turkey
04/05.09.01 ..Azerbaijan-Macedonia
04/05.09.01 ..Slovakia-Moldova
04/05.09.01 ..Turkey-Sweden
06/07.10.01 ..Macedonia-Slovakia
06/07.10.01 ..Moldova-Turkey
06/07.10.01 ..Sweden-Azerbaijan

Group 5

Norway, Ukraine, Poland, Wales, Armenia, Belarus

02/03.09.00 ..Belarus-Wales
02/03.09.00 ..Norway-Armenia
02/03.09.00 ..Ukraine-Poland
07/08.10.00 ..Armenia-Ukraine
07/08.10.00 ..Poland-Belarus
07/08.10.00 ..Wales-Norway
10/11.11.00 ..Belarus-Armenia
10/11.11.00 ..Norway-Ukraine
10/11.11.00 ..Poland-Wales
24/25.03.01 ..Armenia-Wales
24/25.03.01 ..Norway-Poland
24/25.03.01 ..Ukraine-Belarus
27/28.03.01 ..Belarus-Norway
27/28.03.01 ..Poland-Armenia
27/28.03.01 ..Wales-Ukraine
02/03.06.01 ..Armenia-Belarus
02/03.06.01 ..Ukraine-Norway
02/03.06.01 ..Wales-Poland
05/06.06.01 ..Armenia-Poland
05/06.06.01 ..Norway-Belarus
05/06.06.01 ..Ukraine-Wales
01/02.09.01 ..Belarus-Ukraine
01/02.09.01 ..Poland-Norway
01/02.09.01 ..Wales-Armenia
04/05.09.01 ..Belarus-Poland
04/05.09.01 ..Norway-Wales
04/05.09.01 ..Ukraine-Armenia
06/07.10.01 ..Armenia-Norway
06/07.10.01 ..Poland-Ukraine
06/07.10.01 ..Wales-Belarus

Group 6

Belgium, Scotland, Croatia, Latvia, San Marino

02.09.00 .....Belgium-Croatia
02.09.00 .....Latvia-Scotland
07.10.00 .....Latvia-Belgium
07.10.00 .....San Marino-Scotland
11.10.00 .....Croatia-Scotland
15.11.00 .....San Marino-Latvia
14.02.01 .....Belgium-San Marino
24.03.01 .....Croatia-Latvia
24.03.01 .....Scotland-Belgium
28.03.01 .....Scotland-San Marino
25.04.01 .....Latvia-San Marino
02.06.01 .....Belgium-Latvia
02.06.01 .....Croatia-San Marino
06.06.01 .....Latvia-Croatia
06.06.01 .....San Marino-Belgium
01.09.01 .....Scotland-Croatia
05.09.01 .....Belgium-Scotland
05.09.01 .....San Marino-Croatia
06.10.01 .....Croatia-Belgium
06.10.01 .....Scotland-Latvia

Group 7

Spain, Austria, Israel, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Liechtenstein

02.09.00 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Spain
03.09.00 .....Israel-Liechtenstein
07.10.00 .....Liechtenstein-Austria
07.10.00 .....Spain-Israel
11.10.00 .....Austria-Spain
11.10.00 .....Israel-Bosnia-Herzegovina
24.03.01 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Austria
24.03.01 .....Spain-Liechtenstein
28.03.01 .....Austria-Israel
28.03.01 .....Liechtenstein-Bosnia-Herzegovina
02.06.01 .....Liechtenstein-Israel
02.06.01 .....Spain-Bosnia-Herzegovina
06.06.01 .....Austria-Liechtenstein
06.06.01 .....Israel-Spain
01.09.01 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Israel
01.09.01 .....Spain-Austria
05.09.01 .....Austria-Bosnia-Herzegovina
05.09.01 .....Liechtenstein-Spain
07.09.01 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Liechtenstein
07.09.01 .....Israel-Austria

Group winners qualify automatically for the finals.

THE FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

(formerly CONCACAF)

PRELIMINARY PHASE

Central American Zone Group A

El Salvador, Belize, Guatemala

05.03.00 .....El Salvador-Belize
19.03.00 .....Belize-Guatemala
02.04.00 .....Guatemala-El Salvador
16.04.00 .....Belize-El Salvador
07.05.00 .....El Salvador-Guatemala
21.05.00 .....Guatemala-Belize

Central American Zone Group B

Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama

04.03.00 .....Honduras-Nicaragua
19.03.00 .....Nicaragua-Panama
02.04.00 .....Panama-Honduras
16.04.00 .....Nicaragua-Honduras
07.05.00 .....Honduras-Panama
21.05.00 .....Panama-Nicaragua

Group winners qualify automatically for the semi-final round.
Group A runners-up play-off against Caribbean Zone Pool 2 runners-up for a semi-final round place; Group B runners-up play-off against Caribbean Zone Pool 3 runners-up for a semi-final round place.

Byes to semi-final round: *Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, USA*

CLUB FIXTURES

ARGENTINA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

14th round (unavailable last month)

Sun, May 28

Boca Juniors v Colon Santa Fe
Chacarita Juniors v Argentinos Juniors
Ferro Carril Oeste v Lanus
Gimnasia LP v Velez Sarsfield
Instituto Cordoba v Belgrano Cordoba
Racing Club v Velez Sarsfield
Rosario Central v Estudiantes
San Lorenzo v Independiente
Talleres Cordoba v Gimnasia J
Union Santa Fe v Newell's Old Boys

RUSSIA

Fri, March 24

Lokomotiv M v CSKA

Sat, March 25

Kryliya Sovetov v Uralan
Spartak v Alaniya
Fakel v Rostselmash
Rotor v Zenit
Anzhi v Torpedo
Lokomotiv NN v Chernomorets
Dinamo v Saturn

Sat, April 1

Lokomotiv M v Kryliya Sovetov
Chernomorets v Dinamo
Torpedo v Lokomotiv NN
Zenit v Anzhi
Rostselmash v Rotor
Alaniya v Fakel
Uralan v Spartak
CSKA v Saturn

Sat, April 8

Kryliya Sovetov v CSKA
Spartak v Lokomotiv M
Fakel v Uralan
Rotor v Alaniya
Anzhi v Rostselmash
Lokomotiv NN v Zenit
Dinamo v Torpedo
Saturn v Chernomorets

Sat, April 15

Lokomotiv M v Fakel
Kryliya Sovetov v Spartak
Torpedo v Saturn
Zenit v Dinamo
Rostselmash v Lokomotiv NN
Alaniya v Anzhi
Uralan v Rotor
CSKA v Chernomorets

Sat, April 22

Spartak v CSKA
Fakel v Kryliya Sovetov
Rotor v Lokomotiv M
Anzhi v Uralan
Lokomotiv NN v Alaniya
Dinamo v Rostselmash
Saturn v Zenit
Chernomorets v Torpedo

Sun, April 30

Lokomotiv M v Anzhi
Kryliya Sovetov v Rotor
Spartak v Fakel
Zenit v Chernomorets
Rostselmash v Saturn
Alaniya v Dinamo
Uralan v Lokomotiv NN
CSKA v Torpedo

Sun, May 7

Fakel v CSKA
Rotor v Spartak
Anzhi v Kryliya Sovetov
Lokomotiv NN v Lokomotiv M
Dinamo v Uralan
Saturn v Alaniya
Chernomorets v Rostselmash
Torpedo v Zenit

Sat, May 13

Lokomotiv M v Dinamo
Kryliya Sovetov v Lokomotiv NN
Spartak v Anzhi
Fakel v Rotor
Rostselmash v Torpedo
Alaniya v Chernomorets
Uralan v Saturn
CSKA v Zenit

Wed, May 17

Rotor v CSKA
Anzhi v Fakel
Lokomotiv NN v Spartak
Dinamo v Kryliya Sovetov
Saturn v Lokomotiv M
Chernomorets v Uralan
Torpedo v Alaniya
Zenit v Rostselmash

Mon, May 22

Zenit v Kryliya Sovetov

Fri, May 26

Lokomotiv M v Chernomorets
Kryliya Sovetov v Saturn
Spartak v Dinamo
Fakel v Lokomotiv NN
Rotor v Anzhi
Alaniya v Zenit
Uralan v Torpedo
CSKA v Rostselmash

Thur, June 8

Anzhi v CSKA
Lokomotiv NN v Rotor
Dinamo v Fakel
Saturn v Spartak
Chernomorets v Kryliya Sovetov
Torpedo v Lokomotiv M
Zenit v Uralan
Rostselmash v Alaniya

Mon, June 12

Lokomotiv M v Zenit
Kryliya Sovetov v Torpedo
Spartak v Chernomorets
Fakel v Saturn
Rotor v Dinamo
Anzhi v Lokomotiv NN
Uralan v Rostselmash
CSKA v Alaniya

Mon, June 19

Lokomotiv NN v CSKA
Dinamo v Anzhi
Saturn v Rotor
Chernomorets v Fakel
Torpedo v Spartak
Rostselmash v Lokomotiv M
Alaniya v Uralan

Fri, June 23

Lokomotiv M v Alaniya
Kryliya Sovetov v Rostselmash
Fakel v Torpedo
Rotor v Chernomorets
Anzhi v Saturn
Lokomotiv NN v Dinamo
CSKA v Uralan

Tues, June 27

Saturn v Lokomotiv NN
Chernomorets v Anzhi
Torpedo v Rotor
Zenit v Fakel
Rostselmash v Spartak
Alaniya v Kryliya Sovetov
Uralan v Lokomotiv M
CSKA v Dinamo

Tues, July 4

Spartak v Torpedo

Wed, July 5

Dinamo v Zenit

Sat, July 8

Kryliya Sovetov v Lokomotiv M
Dinamo v Chernomorets
Lokomotiv NN v Torpedo
Anzhi v Zenit
Fakel v Alaniya
Spartak v Uralan
Saturn v CSKA

Fri, July 14

Torpedo v Dinamo

Sat, July 15

CSKA v Kryliya Sovetov
Lokomotiv M v Spartak
Uralan v Fakel
Alaniya v Rotor
Rostselmash v Anzhi
Zenit v Lokomotiv NN
Chernomorets v Saturn

Wed, July 19

Rotor v Rostselmash
Spartak v Zenit

Sat, July 22

Fakel v Lokomotiv M
Spartak v Kryliya Sovetov
Saturn v Torpedo
Lokomotiv NN v Rostselmash
Anzhi v Alaniya
Chernomorets v CSKA

Sun, July 23

Rotor v Uralan

Sat, July 29

CSKA v Spartak
Kryliya Sovetov v Fakel
Lokomotiv M v Rotor
Uralan v Anzhi
Alaniya v Lokomotiv NN
Rostselmash v Dinamo
Zenit v Saturn
Torpedo v Chernomorets

Wed, August 2

Anzhi v Lokomotiv M
Spartak v Saturn

Sat, August 5

Rotor v Kryliya Sovetov
Fakel v Spartak
Chernomorets v Zenit
Saturn v Rostselmash
Dinamo v Alaniya
Lokomotiv NN v Uralan
Torpedo v CSKA

Sat, August 12

Spartak v Rotor

Sun, August 13

CSKA v Fakel
Kryliya Sovetov v Anzhi
Lokomotiv M v Lokomotiv NN
Uralan v Dinamo
Alaniya v Saturn
Rostselmash v Chernomorets
Zenit v Torpedo

Sat, August 19

Dinamo v Lokomotiv M
Lokomotiv NN v Kryliya Sovetov
Rotor v Fakel
Torpedo v Rostselmash
Chernomorets v Alaniya
Saturn v Uralan
Zenit v CSKA

Sun, August 20

Anzhi v Spartak

Sun, August 27

CSKA v Rotor
Fakel v Anzhi
Spartak v Lokomotiv NN
Kryliya Sovetov v Dinamo
Lokomotiv M v Saturn
Uralan v Chernomorets
Alaniya v Torpedo
Rostselmash v Zenit

Wed, September 6

Chernomorets v Lokomotiv M
Saturn v Kryliya Sovetov
Dinamo v Spartak
Lokomotiv NN v Fakel
Anzhi v Rotor
Zenit v Alaniya
Torpedo v Uralan
Rostselmash v CSKA

Tues, September 19

Alaniya v CSKA

Sat, September 23

CSKA v Anzhi
Rotor v Lokomotiv NN
Fakel v Dinamo
Kryliya Sovetov v Chernomorets
Lokomotiv M v Torpedo
Uralan v Zenit
Alaniya v Rostselmash

Sun, October 1

Zenit v Lokomotiv M
Torpedo v Kryliya Sovetov
Chernomorets v Spartak
Saturn v Fakel
Dinamo v Rotor
Lokomotiv NN v Anzhi
Rostselmash v Uralan

Sat, October 14

CSKA v Lokomotiv NN
Anzhi v Dinamo
Rotor v Saturn
Fakel v Chernomorets
Kryliya Sovetov v Zenit
Lokomotiv M v Rostselmash
Uralan v Alaniya

Sat, October 21

Alaniya v Lokomotiv M
Rostselmash v Kryliya Sovetov
Chernomorets v Rotor
Saturn v Anzhi
Dinamo v Lokomotiv NN

Sun, October 22

Torpedo v Fakel
Uralan v CSKA

Sun, November 5

Lokomotiv M v Uralan
Kryliya Sovetov v Alaniya
Spartak v Rostselmash
Fakel v Zenit
Rotor v Torpedo
Anzhi v Chernomorets
Lokomotiv NN v Saturn
Dinamo v CSKA

Wed, November 8

Zenit v Spartak

Sun, November 12

CSKA v Lokomotiv M
Uralan v Kryliya Sovetov
Alaniya v Spartak
Rostselmash v Fakel
Zenit v Rotor
Torpedo v Anzhi
Chernomorets v Lokomotiv NN
Saturn v Dinamo

REVISED FIXTURES

ENGLAND

Coventry v Everton *Wed, Mar 15 (was Apr 24)*
Chelsea v Coventry *Wed, Apr 12 (was Apr 8)*
Liverpool v Aston Villa *Wed, Mar 15 (was Apr 24)*
Middlesbrough v Man Utd *Mon, Apr 10 (was Apr 8)*
Wimbledon v Sheffield Wed *Wed, Apr 12 (was Apr 24)*
Wimbledon v Liverpool *Sun, Apr 16 (was Apr 15)*

SQUADS

ARGENTINA

ARGENTINOS JUNIORS

GOALKEEPERS

12	Guillermo CRUDO	11.08.67
21	Rodrigo REYNOSO	21.03.75
1	Raul SANZOTTI	12.01.75

DEFENDERS

15	Julio ARCA	31.01.81
26	Jose BELFORTI	07.04.81
3	Diego COGLIANDRO	10.10.76
14	Diego DE LA VEGA	01.06.79
13	Ceferino DENIS	09.11.78
25	Nestor FERNANDEZ	12.10.78
22	Sergio LUQUE	17.06.75
4	Sergio PLAZA	14.02.76
	Gustavo QUINTEROS	15.02.65
2	Rolando SCHIAVI	18.01.73

MIDFIELDERS

6	Fabian GARFAGNOLI	17.08.70
7	Christian GOMEZ	07.11.74
10	Federico INSUA	03.01.80
5	Nicolas MEDINA	17.02.82
17	Matias MONZON	20.10.80
19	Fernando SANCHEZ	20.01.76

FORWARDS

8	Jorge CERVERA	17.01.75
11	Aldo OSORIO	12.06.74
9	Pablo SABBAG	11.05.74
16	Gustavo SANDOVAL	12.03.75
	Dario SCOTTO	01.09.69
24	Fernando ZAGHARIAN	13.01.77

COACH

Osvaldo Alberto SOSA

BELGRANO CORDOBA

GOALKEEPERS

12	Cesar LABARRE	06.05.68
1	Bernardo RAGG	21.05.68
25	Gonzalo VICENTE	01.08.79

DEFENDERS

13	Marcos BUSTOS	14.05.79
26	Eddie CARAZAS	22.02.74
4	Sergio CASTILLO	15.12.68
22	LUIS FERNANDO (Bra)	25.04.70
27	Mauro LASPADA	09.01.75
16	Julio Cesar LOPEZ	25.01.76
6	Hernan MEDINA	05.09.74
35	Sergio UMPIERREZ (Uru)	12.02.68

MIDFIELDERS

18	Esteban GONZALEZ	16.09.78
17	Sebastian JARAST	05.08.77
32	Gaston MARTINA	03.01.80
8	Gerardo SOLANA	10.11.69
10	Luis E SOSA (Uru)	19.03.64
11	Leonardo TORRES	27.10.75
15	Javier VILLARREAL	01.03.79
5	Jose Luis VILLARREAL	17.03.66

FORWARDS

29	Marcelo AMAYA	30.10.74
33	Cristian CARNERO	01.02.73
24	Federico FERRER	17.10.76
31	Nicolas GODINO	19.09.79
30	Cristian GUZMAN	14.03.78
7	Mauricio LOPEZ	22.02.74
34	Josemir LUJAMBIO (Uru)	25.09.71

COACH

Reinaldo Carlos MERLO

BOCA JUNIORS

GOALKEEPERS

12	Roberto ABBONDANCIERI	19.08.72
1	Oscar CORDOBA (Col)	03.02.70
25	Christian MUNOZ	01.07.77

DEFENDERS

3	Adolfo ARRUABARRENA	20.07.75
2	Jorge BERMUDEZ (Col)	18.06.71
27	Nicolas BURDISSO	12.04.81
4	Hugo IBARRA	01.04.74
15	Anibal MATELLAN	08.05.77
6	Walter SAMUEL	22.03.78
13	Christian TRAVERSO	14.02.72
	Guillermo VALDEZ	01.02.78

MIDFIELDERS

17	Gustavo BARROS SCHELOTTO	04.05.73
	Christian BASSEDAS	16.02.73
18	Jose Horacio BASUALDO	20.06.63
22	Sebastian BATTAGLIA	08.11.80
19	Cesar LA PAGLIA	25.02.79
11	Fernando NAVAS	29.01.77
24	Jose PEREDA (Per)	08.09.73
26	Omar PEREZ	29.03.81
10	Juan Roman RIQUELME	24.06.78
5	Mauricio SERNA (Col)	22.01.68

FORWARDS

29	Juan Manuel AROSTEGUI	12.02.80
20	Antonio BARIJHO	18.03.77
7	Guillermo BARROS SCHELOTTO	04.05.73
	Marcelo DELGADO	24.03.73
21	Christian GIMENEZ	01.02.81
	Esteban HERRERA	09.03.81
23	Alfredo MORENO	12.01.80
9	Martin PALERMO	07.11.73

COACH

Carlos BIANCHI

CHACARITA JUNIORS

GOALKEEPERS

17	Albano ANCONETANI	06.03.76
12	Alejandro SACCONE	25.03.74
1	Jorge VIVALDO	18.02.67

DEFENDERS

13	Arnold CRUZ	22.12.70
22	Fernando DELLA SALLA	06.10.76
25	Ivan FURIOS	03.12.79
4	Serafin GARCIA (Uru)	15.07.75
3	Robert LIMA (Uru)	18.06.72
28	Diego OTANO	01.04.75
6	Ricardo PAGES	02.05.73
2	Fabio SCHIAVI	09.11.70

MIDFIELDERS

33	Eduardo AGUERO	16.08.79
32	Abdel ALE	22.07.77
19	Hipolito ARIAS	26.12.78
14	Edgardo BOUJON	15.06.67
10	Ruben CAPRIA	06.01.70
5	Jorge CORDON	13.02.71
24	Leonardo FERRERO	23.04.77
26	Jose GARAY	02.01.80
15	Mariano MIGNINI	11.10.75
7	Edgardo PARISI	18.12.71
8	Diego RIVERO	11.08.81
30	Ariel ROSADA	11.04.78

FORWARDS

18	Luciano ABALOS	13.08.78
9	Silvio CARRARIO	31.08.71
20	Ariel CARRENO	04.03.79
21	Hugo DOMINGUEZ	09.05.77
23	Daniel FERNANDEZ	23.02.78
29	Miguel PRADO	20.06.79
16	Mauricio RISSO	04.02.75
11	Alex RODRIGUEZ (Uru)	01.06.70

COACH

Hector RIVOIRA

COLON SANTA FE

GOALKEEPERS

30	Juan Carlos BENTANCOR	17.04.77
1	Jose BURTOVOY	06.11.76
31	Leonardo DIAZ	05.09.72
12	Joaquin IRIGOYTIA	15.08.75

DEFENDERS

22	Silvio AZOGE	02.09.76
19	Marcelo GOUX	21.09.75
2	Luis MEDERO	24.01.73
21	Pablo MORANT	30.06.70
6	Alcides PICCOLLI	23.02.79
13	Pablo RICHETTI	02.01.77
4	Hector RODRIGUEZ (Uru)	22.10.69
3	Dante UNALI	10.12.66

MIDFIELDERS

7	Rodolfo AQUINO	21.07.74
14	Jorge BONTEMPS	21.08.77
5	Diego CASTAGNO SUAREZ	10.10.72
18	Gaston CORDOBA	12.06.74
16	Javier DELGADO (Uru)	08.07.75
	Cristian FAVRE	20.01.74
15	Gonzalo FAVRE	03.07.78
23	Claudio MARINI	15.05.72
10	Carlos MORALES SANTOS (Par)	04.11.68
	Eduardo ROMANI	12.01.77
24	Ariel SEGALLA	08.02.76
8	Julio Cesar TORESANI	05.12.67
	Esteban VALENCIA (Chl)	08.01.72

FORWARDS

9	Claudio BIAGGIO	02.07.67
11	Claudio ENRIA	28.03.73
20	Esteban FUERTES	26.12.72
	Jose SAND	17.07.80
	Cristian TORRES	26.08.75

COACH

Osvaldo PIAZZA

ESTUDIANTES DE LA PLATA

GOALKEEPERS

26	Pablo FIGUEREDO	
30	Marcelo OJEDA	08.12.68
12	Nicolas TAUBER	20.08.80

DEFENDERS

15	Agustin ALAYES	22.07.78
6	Juan Manuel AZCONZABAL	08.09.74
3	Jorge BARATTERI	29.10.77
14	Juan Ignacio BROWN	30.09.77
4	Juan Ramon FERNANDEZ	05.03.80
16	Cristian GUAYMAS	19.11.77
	Juan LEZICA	13.03.77
	Alejandro PERALTA	25.04.73
2	Pablo QUATROCCHI	19.01.74
13	Leandro TESTA	24.03.76

MIDFIELDERS

20	Nelson AGOGLIA	10.05.73
22	Horacio CARDOZO	29.11.79
25	Sergio CATAN	29.12.74
	Maximiliano CEJAS	07.02.80
24	Ernesto FARIAS	29.05.80
18	Jorge JIMENEZ	04.07.70
9	Leonardo MAS	22.07.75
8	Marcelo ROMAGNOLI	15.08.70
5	Ariel ZAPATA	02.09.74

FORWARDS

17	Carlos CASARTELLI	04.11.74
11	Alejandro NICOLAS	29.09.77
27	Gonzalo PAVONE	14.06.77
23	Mauricio PIERSIMONE	05.03.73
7	Fabricio SIMONE	04.06.78

COACH

Francisco Oscar FERRARO

FERRO CARRIL OESTE

GOALKEEPERS

12	Rodrigo GALANT	14.03.78
	Rodrigo INFANTINO	14.02.76
1	Ariel ROCHA	29.04.73

DEFENDERS

15	Cristian AYALA	25.03.78
17	Ariel GROOTHUIS	25.05.78
	Cristian HUDAHIED	15.05.80
3	Martin MORELLO	25.05.78
2	Nicolas SARTORI	23.05.76
	Luis A SOSA	07.05.77
6	Cristian TULA	28.01.78
	Gaston VALES	15.10.74
13	Maximiliano VELAZQUEZ	14.03.80
4	Martin VITALI	11.11.75

MIDFIELDERS

10	Raul CHAPARRO	19.10.75
5	Felix DECIMA	07.09.79
	Pablo FIORENTINI	30.04.75
20	Adrian GIAMPIETRI	22.02.79
8	Mario GRANA	27.01.73
	Andres GRANDE	29.10.76
	Fabio LANDABURU	29.09.78
5	Leonel MARTENS	27.05.75
	Maximiliano NATALICCHIO	02.10.74
18	Jorge VEGA	17.02.80

FORWARDS

	Nicolas ASCENCIO (Ecu)	18.09.69
16	Mario COSTAS	24.06.81
7	Nicolas HERNANDEZ	21.05.79
9	Sergio RODRIGUEZ	17.01.76

COACH

Juan Domingo ROCCHIA & Jorge BRANDONI

GIMNASIA Y ESGRIMA JUJUY

GOALKEEPERS

	Jose Luis CAMPI	28.01.71
1	Hernan CASTELLANO	03.08.72
12	Gustavo CORONEL	13.07.75

DEFENDERS

6	Pedro AGUIRREZ	06.08.73
30	Pablo ALBA	26.03.79
31	Federico ARIAS	
2	Juan Carlos BARRIONUEVO	04.07.69
5	Fernando CASARTELLI	23.10.76
13	Luis LOBO	18.05.68
20	Pablo PIRO	05.12.70
3	Marco SANDY (Bol)	29.08.71
23	Norberto TESTA	10.07.74

MIDFIELDERS

25	Jose Luis ALMARAZ	29.02.80
18	David BISCONTI	22.09.68
10	Roberto CARTES (Chl)	06.09.72
4	Alejandro GONZALEZ	06.10.72
8	Marcelo HERRERA	05.10.66
16	Mariano INGLEMONA	07.06.77
14	Ruben MENCIA	02.02.76
19	Jose MOREIRAS	19.09.76
15	Claudio RIVADERO	28.12.70
29	Carmelo RUSCITTO	13.05.77

FORWARDS

28	Victor Hugo CHAZARRETA	10.12.80
17	Diego COMELLES	04.04.75
26	Miguel CORONEL	10.02.76
21	Carlos GARNIER	21.04.75
22	Adrian GOROSTIDI	11.02.73
7	Daniel JUAREZ	07.01.75
11	Mario LOBO	21.08.64

COACH

Geronimo SACCARDI

GIMNASIA Y ESGRIMA LA PLATA

GOALKEEPERS

21	Daniel BERTOYA	13.04.75
12	Guillermo HERNANDO	18.09.74
1	Enzo NOCE	07.04.69

DEFENDERS

23	Edgardo ADINOLFI (Uru)	27.03.71
4	Leandro CUFRE	09.05.78
17	Siro DARINO	01.09.76
22	Lucas GIMENEZ	13.07.80
24	Diego GUIDI	17.02.81
18	Leonardo MANSILLA	16.03.77
	Ariel PEREYRA	02.10.73
	Juan Matias SAGORAK	29.04.77
3	Jorge SAN ESTEBAN	28.06.72
2	Guillermo SANGUINETTI (Uru)	21.06.66

MIDFIELDERS

29	Leandro AGUIRRE	28.05.79
15	Daniel CAVALLO	11.07.75
19	Gustavo DUENA	15.07.73
8	Favio FERNANDEZ	25.07.72
5	Marcelo GOMEZ	08.12.70
14	Guillermo LARROSA	23.06.75
10	Mariano MESSERA	23.02.78
25	Federico MOLINARI	16.07.79
11	Pablo SANCHEZ	03.01.73
7	Pedro TROGLIO	28.07.65

FORWARDS

9	Diego ALONSO (Uru)	16.04.75
20	Jorge BARCLAY	01.02.78
16	Fernando GATTI	17.10.78
	Sebastian ROMERO	27.04.78
6	Facundo SAVA	07.03.74

COACH

Gregorio PEREZ

INDEPENDIENTE

GOALKEEPERS

25	Marcelo LUCA	02.05.77
1	Farid MONDRAGON (Col)	21.06.71
12	Marcelo PONTIROLI	22.01.72
	Norberto SCOPONI	13.01.61

DEFENDERS

30	Mauro DE JESUS	10.06.75
3	Cristian DIAZ	12.05.76
4	Jorge MARTINEZ	20.06.73
6	Gabriel MILITO	07.09.80
24	Gustavo NUNEZ	09.01.76
14	Javier PAEZ	23.09.75
2	Sebastian PENA	03.07.76
13	Juan Carlos RAMIREZ	07.03.65
31	Jose Luis ZELAYE	17.12.78

MIDFIELDERS

17	Leandro AVILA	12.09.79
16	Walter BUSTOS	03.05.79
19	Esteban CAMBIASSO	18.08.80
5	Alfredo CASCINI	07.04.71
18	Diego FORLAN	19.05.79
8	Gaston GALVAN	27.02.77
	Jorge MERCADO	09.05.75
20	Ariel MONTENEGRO	03.11.75
10	Daniel MONTENEGRO	28.03.79
23	Mario SARALEGUI (Uru)	18.05.71

FORWARDS

21	Ezequiel AMAYA	20.02.78
15	Claudio GRAF	31.01.76
7	Francisco GUERRERO	23.08.7
9	Victor LOPEZ (Uru)	09.04.71
11	Bruno MARIONI	15.06.75
	Pablo TRECCO	24.08.81

COACH

Enzo Hector TROSSERO

INSTITUTO CORDOBA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Roberto CABRERA	20.06.69
23	Mauricio CARANTA	31.07.78
12	Javier KLIMOWICZ	10.03.77
	Gabriel TEJEDA	

DEFENDERS

26	Diego ALARCON	09.08.76
4	Anibal ALVAREZ	14.08.75
3	Fernando CLEMENTZ	27.04.71
2	Ramon GALARZA	23.09.71
21	Jose GUERRERO	14.12.72
22	Ariel LENCINAS	04.02.75
19	Christian MANFREDI	09.06.73
	Leonardo MOYANO	26.06.77
6	Jose Guillermo RODRIGUEZ	24.08.77
18	Mariano VILLAMAYOR (Par)	19.08.78

MIDFIELDERS

8	Oscar ALANIZ	04.07.71
34	Mauro AMATO	19.12.73
11	Hernan BUJAN	05.12.74
16	Pablo CORTI	03.10.73
17	Damian FELICIA	16.08.80
5	Javier LOPEZ	23.03.66
20	Carlos MARCZUK	11.02.76
25	Lucas RIMOLDI	07.08.80
14	Silvio RISIO	09.06.71
10	Claudio SARRIA	10.08.75

FORWARDS

	Lucas BRIZUELA	28.08.79
28	Diego CAPDEVILLA	
7	Fernando CASTRO	22.08.69
9	Daniel JIMENEZ	04.12.70
15	Raul MALDONADO	11.03.75

COACH

Juan Jose LOPEZ

LANUS

GOALKEEPERS

12	Rodrigo BURELA	12.10.71
22	Sebastian CALVINO	28.05.77
	Marcelo ELIZAGA	19.04.72
1	Claudio FLORES (Uru)	10.05.76

DEFENDERS

2	Lucas ALESSANDRIA	05.04.78
4	Denis CANIZA (Par)	29.08.74
21	Mariano CIGLIC	15.04.76
	Paulo DA SILVA (Par)	01.02.80
6	Mariano FERNANDEZ	02.09.78
	Patricio GONZALEZ	20.02.79
14	Gabriel RAMON	20.05.76
3	Carlos ROLDAN	12.09.79

MIDFIELDERS

17	Cristian ALVAREZ	09.01.78
15	Arley BETANCOURT (Col)	04.03.75
16	Ezequiel CARBONI	04.04.79
	German CASTILLO	19.10.77
5	Daniel CRAVERO	28.07.65
8	Juan FERNANDEZ	09.09.75
11	Julian KMET	22.11.77
10	Javier MORALES	10.01.80
28	Fabricio SANCHEZ	21.08.76
18	Luis ZUBELDIA	13.01.81

FORWARDS

20	Sebastian CORIA	20.02.80
27	Walter COYETTE	28.01.76
19	Silvio GONZALEZ	08.06.80
9	Diego KLIMOWICZ	06.07.74
32	Fernando SOLER	24.02.78
	Marcelo TRIMARCHI	29.10.73
7	Martin VILALLONGA	08.10.70

COACH

Miguel Angel RUSSO

NEWELL'S OLD BOYS

GOALKEEPERS

1	Cristian CEJAS	21.04.75
22	Luciano PALOS	08.06.79

DEFENDERS

15	Ricardo ACEVEDO	29.09.79
35	Raul CARDOZO	28.10.67
3	Fernando CROSA	28.02.79
18	Raul DAMIANI	29.08.79
4	Fabricio FUENTES	13.10.76
33	Fernando GAMBOA	28.10.70
2	Cristian GRABINSKI	12.01.80
19	Gabriel RUIZ	23.01.80
14	Juan Pablo VOJVODA	13.01.75

MIDFIELDERS

25	Sergio ALMIRON	08.11.80
23	Pablo GUINAZU	26.08.78
36	Kurt LUTMAN	11.09.76
10	Damian MANSO	06.06.79
11	Diego MATEO	07.08.78
6	Claudio PARIS	31.03.73
20	Matias PAVONI	25.04.80
16	Jorge PRIOTTI	15.07.72
26	Maximiliano RODRIGUEZ	02.01.81
8	Julio Cesar SALDANA	14.11.67

FORWARDS

32	Ruben Dario GIGENA	02.10.80
17	Gaston LEVA	09.02.79
21	Diego QUINTANA	24.04.78
7	German REAL	17.04.76
30	Mauro ROSALES	02.10.80

COACH

Andres REBOTTARO

RACING CLUB

GOALKEEPERS

13	Walter CACERES	02.12.75
30	Juan HIRIGOYEN	11.02.77
1	Gaston PEZZUTI	09.02.76

DEFENDERS

26	Carlos ARANO	06.05.80
2	Hector BANEGAS	10.07.75
16	Luciano CASTILLO	23.02.78
21	Gustavo FALASCHI	18.07.67
4	Andres GAITAN	23.12.70
12	Leonardo GARAYCOCHEA	21.04.76
23	Javier MUSA	15.01.79
	Alejandro SIMIONATO	05.08.71
	Diego TROTTA	11.02.79
6	Claudio UBEDA	17.09.69
3	Sergio ZANETTI	22.11.67

MIDFIELDERS

28	Gustavo ARCE	01.07.79
7	Adrian BASTIA	20.12.78
10	Nicolas DIEZ	09.02.77
22	Maximiliano ESTEVEZ	02.06.77
	Gonzalo GAITAN	02.12.73
25	Gaston LJENDO	29.05.74
14	Diego LOSCRI	22.04.77
11	Javier LUX	10.07.77
8	Roberto MONSERRAT	13.09.68
	Vicente PRINCIPIANO	03.10.78
5	Fernando QUIROZ	19.08.68
	Gonzalo RODRIGUEZ (Uru)	27.05.76

FORWARDS

9	Osvaldo CANOBBIO (Uru)	12.02.73
24	Jose CHATRUC	09.11.76
17	Carlos CORDONE	06.11.74
29	Diego MILITO	12.06.79
	Lucio ORELLANO	28.04.78
19	Sixto PERALTA	16.04.79
27	Facundo VILLALBA	20.06.73

COACH

Gustavo Adolfo COSTAS

RIVER PLATE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Roberto BONANO	24.02.70
17	Franco COSTANZO	05.09.80
12	Gaston SESSA	15.04.73

DEFENDERS

27	Norberto ACOSTA	25.05.76
5	Eduardo BERIZZO	13.11.69
	Hernan DIAZ	26.02.65
23	Ariel FRANCO	02.06.78
	Ariel GARCE	14.07.79
4	Gustavo LOMBARDI	10.09.75
13	Diego PLACENTE	27.07.77
15	Leonardo RAMOS (Uru)	11.09.69
14	Pedro SARABIA (Par)	05.07.75
2	Roberto TROTTA	28.01.69
	Hector VILLALBA	26.02.78
6	Mario YEPES (Col)	13.01.76

MIDFIELDERS

10	Pablo AIMAR	03.11.79
16	Damian ALVAREZ	24.05.79
21	Eduardo COUDET	12.09.74
8	Marcelo ESCUDERO	25.07.72
11	Leonel GANCEDO	28.01.71
22	Cristian LEDESMA	28.11.78
	Gabriel PEREYRA	28.02.78
20	Guillermo PEREYRA	20.02.80
24	Victor ZAPATA	20.01.79

FORWARDS

9	Juan Pablo ANGEL (Col)	24.10.75
19	Martin CARDETTI	22.10.75
	Cristian CASTILLO	25.02.75
18	Nelson CUEVAS (Par)	10.01.80
28	Sebastian RAMBERT	30.01.74
7	Javier SAVIOLA	11.12.81

COACH

Americo GALLEGO

ROSARIO CENTRAL

GOALKEEPERS

1	Jose Maria BULJUBASICH	12.05.71
25	Ariel CACERES	17.01.77
12	Laureano TOMBOLINI	13.08.76

DEFENDERS

27	Ricardo CANALS (Uru)	26.09.70
6	Pablo CUBERAS	16.08.73
2	German GERBAUDO	16.09.75
	Juan Ramon JARA (Par)	06.08.70
13	Gabriel LOESCHBOR	04.06.77
4	Dario MARRA	20.03.74
3	David PEREZ	28.11.77
16	German RIVAROLA	18.04.79

MIDFIELDERS

8	Javier CAPPELLETTI	25.10.76
17	Cristian COLUSSO	07.02.77
14	Diego ERROZ	21.09.78
24	Javier GARCIA	25.11.80
10	Ezequiel GONZALEZ	10.07.80
19	Hugo GONZALEZ	19.07.78
	Raul GORDILLO	14.09.74
	Diego LATORRE	04.08.69
5	Ivan MORENO Y FABIANESI (Spa)	04.06.79
18	Daniel QUINTEROS	10.03.76
7	Arnaldo QUIROGA	10.07.77
20	Liber VESPA (Uru)	18.10.71

FORWARDS

22	Federico ARIAS	24.04.79
30	Javier CAMPORA	07.01.80
	Ezequiel IGLESIAS	10.05.77
11	Rafael MACERATESI	02.04.76
15	Fernando PIERUCCI	29.11.79
9	Juan PIZZI	07.06.68

COACH

Edgardo Norberto BAUZA

SAN LORENZO

GOALKEEPERS

1	Gustavo CAMPAGNUOLO	27.06.73
12	Jose RAMIREZ	03.02.77
23	Jose VALDIVIEZO	07.10.70

DEFENDERS

2	Horacio AMELI	07.07.74
	Felix BENITO	20.01.78
38	Celso ESQUIVEL	
39	Ezequiel GARRE	
3	Claudio MOREL RODRIGUEZ (Par)	02.02.78
14	Fernando ORTIZ	25.12.77
4	Aldo PAREDES	15.02.72
	Angel PUERTAS	23.01.80
6	Eduardo TUZZIO	31.07.74

MIDFIELDERS

	Javier ARTERO (Spa)	16.04.75
25	Walter ERVITI	12.06.80
7	Raul ESTEVEZ	21.01.78
13	Omar GALLARDO	01.04.79
15	Adrian GONZALEZ	20.11.76
24	Freddy GRISALES (Col)	22.09.75
5	Pablo MICHELINI	07.10.73
17	Carlos MORENO	17.01.73
18	Carlos NETTO	24.07.70
	Matias ORTIZ	08.11.78
21	Lucas PUSINERI	16.06.76
10	Leandro ROMAGNOLI	17.03.81
19	Mario SANTANA	25.12.81
22	Mirco SARIC	06.06.78
33	Ricardo VERON	22.01.81
29	Cristian ZURITA	24.07.79

FORWARDS

25	Julio BEVACQUA	09.06.80
34	Adrian CORIA	30.07.76
28	Lucio FILOMENO	08.05.80
8	Guillermo FRANCO	03.11.76
	Lucas GATTI	14.02.78
11	Ariel LOPEZ	05.04.74
	Hector NUNEZ	07.10.72
9	Bernardo ROMEO	10.09.77

COACH

Oscar Alfredo RUGGERI

TALLERES CORDOBA

GOALKEEPERS

23	Jorge CIANCAGLINI	27.03.66
1	Mario CUENCA	06.03.75

DEFENDERS

14	David DIAZ	25.09.75
3	Horacio HUMOLLER	12.12.66
2	Julian MAIDANA	11.01.72
6	Victor Hugo SOTOMAYOR	21.01.68
4	Silvio SUAREZ (Par)	30.05.67

MIDFIELDERS

11	Manuel AGUILAR	12.09.69
8	Daniel ALBORNOS	17.07.77
5	Adrian AVALOS	25.11.74
22	Andres CABRERA	19.01.70
	Hernan FRANCO	26.01.74
	Gustavo LILLO	08.08.73
15	Cristian PINO	24.12.76
26	Cristian RAMI	26.01.78
21	Gabriel ROTH	05.05.79
27	Marcelo SARMIENTO	
20	Ricardo SILVA	27.03.77

FORWARDS

7	Rodrigo ASTUDILLO	23.11.77
18	Sebastian FLORES CORONEL	11.04.79
9	Dario GIGENA	21.01.78
16	Jose Luis MARZO	28.12.71
10	Nicolas OLIVA	26.09.71

COACH

Ricardo Alberto GARECA

UNION SANTA FE

GOALKEEPERS

26	Nereo FERNANDEZ	13.04.79
13	Javier LAVALLEN	13.12.73
1	Oscar PASSET	12.10.65

DEFENDERS

34	Cristian BIAGIONI	28.05.79
3	Juan Pablo CARDENAS	28.05.78
4	Ariel DONNET	23.02.74
28	Marcelo MOSSET	29.09.81
20	Diego OLIVERA	24.03.77
2	Jose Maria PAZ	03.07.78
6	Edgardo PRATOLA	20.05.69
38	Carlos RODRIGUEZ (Uru)	06.11.70
14	Lautaro TRULLET	06.12.76
12	Martin VALLI	04.05.77

MIDFIELDERS

24	Cristian BASUALDO	17.04.80
10	Dario CABROL	30.01.72
	Matias DONNET	18.04.80
8	Norberto FERNANDEZ	28.01.73
5	Juan Jose JAYO (Per)	20.01.73
	Carlos MAZZONI	06.03.76
32	Silvio MENDOZA	21.02.76
29	Ramon ROSALES	27.09.75
27	Daniel VEGA	04.02.78
22	Martin ZAPATA	18.12.79

FORWARDS

	Ignacio ARROYO	29.03.77
9	Miguel BARRETO	14.09.78
21	Diego CEJAS	22.06.79
11	Cristian DOMIZI	09.06.69
17	Martin PEREZLINDO	03.01.77
	Waldir SAENZ (Per)	15.05.73
16	Andres SILVERA	14.03.77
15	Daniel TILGER	03.08.70

COACH

Nery PUMPIDO

VELEZ SARSFIELD

GOALKEEPERS

1	Jose Luis CHILAVERT (Par)	27.07.65
12	Ariel DE LA FUENTE	17.07.77
29	Bernardo LEYENDA	26.03.80

DEFENDERS

27	Eduardo DOMINGUEZ	01.09.79
2	Federico DOMINGUEZ	13.08.76
33	Gustavo FRANCO	
21	Juan Manuel HERBELLA	03.05.78
3	Hernan MALDONADO	22.01.78
15	Sebastian MENDEZ	04.07.77
6	Maximiliano PELLEGRINO	26.01.80
	Cristian VELLA	06.03.78
4	Flavio ZANDONA	08.04.68

MIDFIELDERS

23	Esteban BUJAN	13.07.79
10	Patricio CAMPS	22.01.72
26	Lucas CASTROMAN	02.10.80
5	Fabian CUBERO	21.12.78
	Ariel ERCOLI	19.02.77
24	Juan Carlos FALCON	19.11.79
8	Claudio HUSAIN	20.11.74
25	Rodrigo MARANGONI	21.02.78
30	Mauro OBOLO	27.06.80
32	Leonardo OCAMICA	
31	Gonzalo SCHMILDHALTER	08.05.80

FORWARDS

	Omar ASAD	09.04.71
20	Cristian BARDARO	11.08.77
	Lucas CANTORO	03.04.79
22	Dario HUSAIN	02.05.76
	Andres MONTENEGRO	28.04.78
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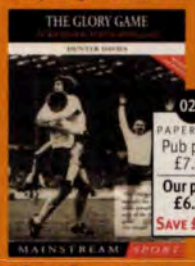

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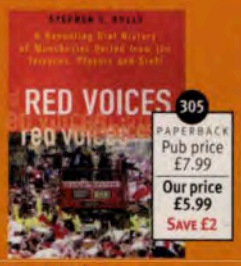

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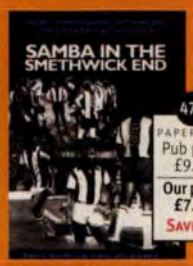

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W Soccer APR 00

Racism and refereeing put soccer in the shade

Paddy Agnew on a disturbing month in Serie A

RACIST fan behaviour, never-ending polemics about referees and the occasional moment of footballing excellence made it a typically turbulent February.

Over the past couple of seasons, an extreme right-wing element among the supporters of Roma and Lazio, among others, has become increasingly active. Fascist and/or Nazi insignia and banners regularly appear at the Olympic stadium, while some 'fans' have re-vamped the racist slogans and 'grunts' at black players.

For most of the time, this behaviour has gone unnoticed by all but a section of the sports media. But when some especially anti-social Lazio fans had the dim idea of displaying a banner reading "Honour to the tiger Arkan", in memory of the indicted Serbian war criminal (real name Zelijko Raznatovic), then the entire political class stood up to protest.

Arkan, wanted by the International Tribunal in The Hague for his alleged part in 'ethnic cleansing' atrocities in Croatia and Bosnia in the mid-1990s, had died in a Belgrade hotel shoot-out two weeks before the Lazio fans had the uninspired idea of 'commemorating' him.

The banner in his memory prompted the intervention of the Minister for the Interior, Enzo Bianco, who issued a decree instructing security forces to remove racist, fascist, Nazi or otherwise unacceptable banners during games. The Minister's decree also called on the police to suspend matches, if necessary, while removing such insignia.

Understandably, senior Italian police officers with experience of football crowds were less than comfortable with the latter recommendation, pointing out that to stop a match so as to wade into a jammed terrace full of hardline supporters could lead to a riot. At press time, no such suspension has been enacted and offensive banners and/or insignia have been confiscated outside stadia rather than inside.

While the confiscation of banners can prove a relatively straightforward business, it is inevitably much harder to stop the ever-increasing chanting of racist slogans at black players.

Again the Lazio fans have led the way, much to the annoyance of club owner Sergio Cragnotti, who has threatened to order his team to play behind closed doors if the chants do not cease: "It's something I just cannot stand. Our fans make the same mistake every Sunday. The stupidity of these people is beginning to exceed all reasonable bounds.

"All racist or political manipulation of soccer should be totally eliminated from grounds. This will not be easy but I'm preparing a series of innovative measures because Lazio wants to be a leader even when it comes to fans' behaviour. Otherwise, we'll do without them and we'll play our games without any fans at all."

One of those players targetted by Lazio fans during a 0-0 draw with Parma was French World Cup winner Lilian Thuram, a man who has long since marked himself out as an intelligent, reflective person – so much so that the Parma fans refer to him as 'Il Professore'.

When asked about the problem, he answered: "The way these people think, in as much as they think at all, is that we blacks are like monkeys and therefore they make animal noises at us. That sort of behaviour exists all over the civilised world, not just in Italy.

"Let's tell the truth – until 100 years ago, eminent white intellectuals, university professors and sociologists argued that the black race was inferior to the white race. Slavery might have been abolished in the last century but, until then, everybody accepted it.

"Countries like England, France, the USA, even Italy, all constructed their industrial and economic wealth on the back of slavery. The grunts that fans make today are the logical outcome of that culture, a way of thinking that clearly does not disappear overnight."

While racism is nothing new, neither is the vexed question of an alleged refereeing bias in favour of Juventus. Two years ago, according to some, the 'Old Lady' stole the title from Inter with an infamous 1-0 win in Turin, where Ronaldo was denied an apparently certain penalty.

Conspiracy theorists found themselves new ammunition on the day that Juventus beat Venezia 4-0. At first glance, the score suggests that the Turin side were utterly emphatic winners in Venice. Not so. Juve took the lead thanks to a 35th-minute penalty by Alessandro Del Piero, awarded for a foul by Venezia

In the spotlight...Filippo Inzaghi was at the centre of controversy during the Venezia-Juve game

defender Giuseppe Cardone on Filippo Inzaghi. Slow-motion replays, however, showed clearly that, if there were a foul, it was on the part of the Juventus striker.

Adding to Venezia's hurt was the fact that they were denied a possible penalty, ironically for a 'foul' by Inzaghi on Cardone, when the score was 1-0. The Venetians' bitterness overflowed, however, when Inzaghi clearly played the ball forward with an arm when scoring the decisive second goal. At that point, the home side gave up, allowing Inzaghi in for two more goals which sent Juve home on a flattering scoreline.

Venezia president Maurizio Zamparini is rarely at a loss for words and, inevitably, the game prompted some polemical thoughts from him: "Probably, Juventus would have won anyway because they are a very strong team, but precisely for that reason, they don't need help. The penalty was non-existent and without that decision, I don't know how long it would have taken Juventus to win the match.

"Italian referees know how to make a career for themselves. You do it by not awarding a dubious penalty to a little club like Venezia while at the same time blowing for an equally dubious one in favour of a big club like Juventus."

Tempers flared again later that day when Milan entertained Lazio. In the age of television, the cameras now follow the players and staff off the pitch, up the tunnel and right to the dressing-room door. In so doing, the cameras on this occasion witnessed a bitter row between Lazio's Roberto Mancini and Milan managing director Adriano Galliani.

Mancini was vexed by a first half in which two penalties were awarded to Milan (two correct decisions judging by subsequent replays) and he launched a torrent of abuse at Galliani. As words like 'thief' and 'cheat' rang out, a mini-scrimmage developed in which only the intervention of Lazio reserve Attilio Lombardo kept Mancini and Galliani from resorting to fisticuffs.

Speaking after the game, a 2-1 win for Milan, Galliani tried to take the sting out of the situation, saying: "Nothing serious happened at all. These sort of things happen all the time. What is true, though, is that this is a terrific championship contest, with five teams still capable of winning it. We club directors are doing our best to ruin it, but we won't manage it."

However, Lazio boss Cragnotti was immediately on the phone to order a media blackout by his players. Some of us remember that last season, precisely such a blackout was called in April at a time when Lazio lost successive games to Roma and Juventus, defeats that cost them the title. Is history repeating itself?

What seems certain at this stage is that Juve continue to look the strongest side but that Lazio, Roma and Milan could all have a major say in the title contest. Inter are not mathematically out of it but nothing seen from them so far suggests that, January reinforcements notwithstanding, they will be able to stay in the race.

As for Parma and Fiorentina, not even mathematical calculations could save their championship pretensions. Fiorentina's 5-0 away defeat by Roma, on the day that Parma went from 3-1 up to lose 4-3 away to Verona, looked like the end of the championship road for both. Fortunately for them, both still have European campaigns to consider.

Spalletti sacked twice in one season

EVER-COLOURFUL Venezia president Maurizio Zamparini, when not complaining about referees, found time to write himself into the record books by firing coach Luciano Spalletti for the second time in the same season.

Spalletti, a former Empoli and Sampdoria coach, joined Venezia last summer only to be fired in early November and replaced by Giuseppe Materazzi. Three Serie A matches later, however, Zamparini changed his mind, sacked Materazzi, and recalled Spalletti, who admitted frankly that he had not been expecting it.

Two months further down the road Zamparini went into action again, sacking Spalletti and replacing him with Francesco Oddo.

"This is our last chance of avoiding relegation," he said. "I want to see if Oddo is capable of transforming the players available to him into a real soccer team. In general, this type of intervention fails in 90 per cent of cases. Let's see if Oddo can end up in the winning 10 per cent." Spalletti's fate probably was sealed by a 5-0 thrashing away to Roma.

When asked how he expected to get on with his controversial new boss, Oddo replied: "The problem is simple. Get good results and team presidents become like little lambs." Indeed, but there are many wolves out there.

Pro-file Fabrizio Ravanelli

Back in Italy in search of a national team recall

THE White Feather is back home and has his eyes set on a return to the Italian national team in time for Euro 2000.

Fabrizio Ravanelli has not experienced the best of times since leaving Juventus for Middlesbrough after Italy's failure at Euro 96.

His time on Teesside turned sour, despite scoring 32 goals in 50 games, and he headed for the warmer climes of the South of France. At Marseille, Ravanelli was closer to home, but didn't do enough to impress the then Italy coach Cesare Maldini, who omitted him from the *azzurri* squad at France 98.

In January this year, Lazio offered Ravanelli an escape from Marseille's troubled season. He joined the Roman club at a time when their challenge for Serie A and Champions League honours seemed to be flagging, and his first game, away to Venezia, was a 2-0 defeat. Four days later, however, he scored his first goal in a 3-1 home win over Bologna.

In recent weeks, Ravanelli has been linked with a return to England, with Liverpool. However, such a move seems unlikely. Lazio signed him to ease the goalscoring burden on Marcelo Salas. With Alen Boksic prone to injury and Simone Inzaghi lacking big-match experience, the move made perfect sense for Lazio's Swedish coach Sven Goran Eriksson.

Ravanelli has been cautious when assessing his new club's chances in Serie A this season. "Lazio are stronger than Juventus, as far as the overall squad is concerned, but Juventus have this winning mentality that means they leave nothing to chance," he said. But he has seen no lack of commitment from his team-mates. "Despite the fact that this side is crammed with famous names, I notice that they are all here an hour before training, doing warm-ups in the gym or getting ready."

While Eriksson has clearly been convinced that Ravanelli can slot into such a set-up, the player has yet to win over national boss Dino Zoff.

In his last days at Marseille, Ravanelli was saying: "Zoff has never called me, he has never come to watch me play...With all due respect, I don't rate myself any bit inferior to the current strikers in the Italian team."

A good spring in Serie A and Europe could see the White Feather back in contention for an Italy place.

John Holmesdale

Fact file

Club Lazio
Country Italy
Born December 11, 1968, in Perugia
Previous clubs Perugia, Avellino, Casertana, Avellino, Reggiana, Juventus, Middlesbrough (Eng), Marseille (Fra)
International debut March 1995, v Estonia
International caps 22 (8 goals)
Honours Champions League 1996 (Juventus); UEFA Cup 1993 (Juventus); Italian League 1995 (Juventus); Italian Cup 1995

Mice surprise fat cats

Real and Barça have been forced to look to their laurels this season

Inspiration...Djalminha has been the secret behind Deportivo's rise to the top of La Liga

WHILE the fat cats of Barcelona and Real Madrid have been away, both mentally and physically, contesting the Champions League and World Club Championship, the mice have continued to play with La Liga.

Deportivo La Coruna emphasised the point with their 5-2 demolition of Madrid, which was inspired by one of the lesser-known Brazilian stars, Djalminha, a fanatical follower of American basketball.

He joined Deportivo from Palmeiras in 1997 as a replacement for Barcelona-bound Rivaldo, and was originally accused of upsetting the team's style through over-elaborate footwork. But this season he has learned a little more common sense and, hopefully, will light up the Champions League next season.

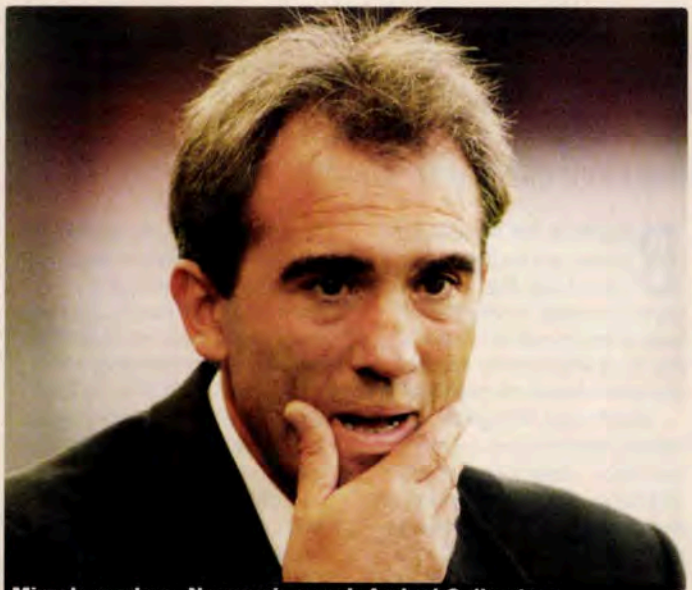
Against Madrid, coach Javier Irureta's men provided a spectacular arrest to a drop in form. They had managed only seven points from seven games, which included a dismal 4-1 defeat by a Valladolid side inspired by new Japanese signing Shoji Jo.

Another of the mice playing happily in the Spanish soccer sunlight are Alaves from the small Basque town of Vitoria. Last season – their first top-flight campaign in 42 years – was one long relegation battle which went right to the last weekend. Now they are flitting around the fringes of the top six after completing a shock home-and-away League double over Barcelona.

Spending only £5million last summer has proved that teamwork, commitment and thorough preparation can make up for a great deal of unnecessary expenditure. Brazilian playmaker Desio, midfield dynamo Pablo and defender and captain Antonio Karmona are the key men. Karmona was the only outfield player to figure in all 3,420 minutes of last season's League campaign.

Oddly enough, not going down this season could cost Alaves money. They took out a pre-season insurance policy which would pay out £15m if they were relegated.

Alaves – who crashed 7-1 at Barcelona last season – secured the



Miracle worker...Numancia coach Andoni Goikoetxea

double over them this time thanks to a *tour de force* from Catalan midfielder Nan Ribera. He scored his first goal of the season in the 2-1 home win over Barcelona last September, and his second to provide victory in Camp Nou.

Alaves coach Jose Manuel Esnal, known as Mane, said: "Some coaches come here 20 consecutive seasons without getting a point, but I have been here three or four times and won twice, so I cannot complain."

The only people complaining were Van Gaal and the Barcelona fans. The latter's response to their club's mixed form was to stay away, 'only' 45,000, less than half the Camp Nou capacity, turning out for the Alaves debacle. Van Gaal's response appears to have been to decide that the likes of Pep Guardiola, Luis Enrique, Sergi, Ronald De Boer, Winston Bogarde and Ruud Hesp could be on their way at the end of the season.

Promoted Numancia are another club enjoying life in Spain while remaining unknown abroad. The tiny club from rural Soria had been expected to go straight back down into oblivion, but coach Andoni Goikoetxea has worked wonders.

They might even become the first promoted side to remain unbeaten at home through a full season since Almeria in 1979-80. Numancia's last home defeat was against Toledo in the Second Division almost a year ago.

Goikoetxea has no illusions about the job in hand, however, nor will he allow complacency to creep in. He says: "Just before each game I remind the players that we are the underdogs. If we avoid relegation it will be even more of an achievement than Barcelona winning the League."

Whether Barcelona manage that remains open to question. It was certainly a nasty shock for the Catalan faithful when old rivals Real Madrid, seemingly playing every day, made up the ground lost while in Brazil to overtake Barcelona and edge into third place.

Not that Madrid have been playing well. They have scrapped for not only their points but also their place alongside Espanyol, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid in the Spanish Cup semi-finals. Injuries and fatigue have taken a toll and little-known youngsters such as goalkeeper Iker Casillas and Argentine Rolando Zarate have grabbed their opportunities.

Coach Vicente Del Bosque knows his mixture of veterans and kids have been fortunate but says: "That has balanced out all the bad luck we have had with injuries. Some of our performances have been horrible, but sometimes you have to accept sacrifices if the results are right."

On the coaching front, Betis parted company with Argentine trainer Carlos Timoteo Griguol only seven months after his arrival with a record of more than 1,000 games bossing the likes of River Plate and Rosario Central with not a single sacking. But the decision was hardly a surprise. For all the big spending on the likes of Denilson, Alfonso and Finidi George, Betis sat 16th in the League, two points off the relegation zone.

Griguol was the fifth coach of the season to be shown the door by a top-division club, after Mallorca's Mario Gomez, Real Sociedad's Bernd Krauss, Real Madrid's John Toshack and Espanyol's Miguel Angel Brindisi.

Keir Radnedge

NEXT MONTH

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MAY ISSUE ON SALE MARCH 31

GERMANY

Repeat performance

Old warhorse Matthaus steers Bayern to another Cup Final clash with Werder

Double delight...Santa Cruz scored twice to help Bayern to the Final

BAYERN MUNICH and Werder Bremen are back in the German Cup Final in Berlin's Olympic stadium on May 6 – and what price a repeat of last year's drama, in which Werder defeated champions Bayern on penalties.

Bayern came through by beating Hansa Rostock 3-2 in the semi-finals, albeit in front of only 10,000 fans. It was a farewell to the German Cup for Lothar Matthaus who departs for MLS and New York/New Jersey MetroStars after the Champions League tie against Real Madrid on March 8 – and he played a key role in creating two goals for Paraguay striker Roque Santa Cruz in the 58th and 66th minutes. Ghana's Sammy Kuffour scored the third, with Hilmar Weilandt and Peter Wibran claiming two late consolations for Rostock.

Matthaus might one day become Germany's national coach. He has a place booked on the German federation's coaching staff once he completes his MLS contract.

DFB president Egidius Braun – who is also preparing to retire from his posts with both the federation and UEFA – followed ex-national coach Berti Vogts in tipping Matthaus for the top job. But Braun said that Matthaus would first need to serve his apprenticeship, and added: "He should follow in Berti Vogts' footsteps and work in youth football before taking over as national team boss."

One possible stumbling block in Matthaus's path to the eventual succession was removed when Jupp Heynckes, now with Benfica and the favourite candidate to follow Erich Ribbeck, said he planned to retire once he has finished in Lisbon.

In the other semi-final, Werder struggled to beat Second Division Stuttgart Kickers 2-1 after extra time. Yuri Maximov headed what proved to be the winner in the 103rd minute, though he was sent off a minute later after receiving a second yellow card.

Bayern are again well set for the League and Cup double after championship pursuers Bayer Leverkusen and Hamburg dropped vital points on the League's restart. Bayern, by contrast, began the spring

FRANCE

Le Roy sees the light

League Cup success signals better times ahead for Strasbourg and their new boss

THE 1998 World Cup left Claude Le Roy a disappointed man. With some reason, he felt his Cameroon team had had a rough refereeing deal, and could well have advanced beyond the first round.

He is, of course, a very old African hand, a wonderfully eccentric-looking figure, who for many years performed alchemy on African teams and players, several of whom would have great days in France.

After the World Cup, Le Roy left Cameroon, eventually going back to France and taking up a supporting role with Strasbourg. He has now become manager, and his team rose from the ashes to shock Monaco in the League Cup, beating them 3-2 away after extra time. This put Strasbourg into the quarter-finals and was just the fillip the club and Le Roy needed.

The significance of the result should not be over-emphasised. There was a suspicion that Monaco, running away with the League, saw the League Cup as no more than a passing distraction, and Strasbourg were soon to be brought to earth: they crashed 3-0 in the championship at Bordeaux. Nevertheless, there was light on the horizon for the club and for Le Roy, who has had a pretty hard time since joining the Alsatian club.

He arrived at Strasbourg as No 2 to his friend Pierre Mankowski, and took over when the latter was dismissed. There seems to have been a great deal of back-stabbing, which Le Roy resented deeply, but things appear to have settled down and the win against Monaco clearly has been a great tonic.

In Madrid, alas, Nicolas Anelka and his fractious brothers seem further than ever from settling down. It was wretched luck, just as he seemed at last to be finding his form, that he should be badly injured during the World Club Championship.

But squabbling with a television crew outside his house, to the point of snatching the ignition keys of their car, was hardly the ideal way to win friends and influence people in Madrid.

Bordeaux, like Monaco, went out of the League Cup, beaten 1-0 by Lyon, and despite the subsequent League win over Strasbourg, president Jean-Louis Triaud seemed to take the Lyon defeat seriously enough. "We were bad. We couldn't create real chances. Above all, I saw no imagination in our ranks. It's clear the best team won," he complained.

Triaud's bitterness also must have stemmed from the fact that Bordeaux, the defending champions, have fallen hopelessly behind in the League, to such an extent that success in the League Cup appeared their best chance of qualifying for the UEFA Cup.

Even the selection of four forwards of the quality of Laslandes, Wiltord, Micoud and Dugarry could not turn the trick against Lyon. Those four could hardly play again with such anonymous pallor, but the tactics of the opposition manager, Bernard Lacombe, had much to do with their performance. Lyon's players were simply instructed to be first to the ball and it worked a treat.

programme with 4-1 wins over Leverkusen and then Duisburg.

A minor consolation for Hamburg fans was veteran striker Tony Yeboah's decision to extend his stay for at least one more year. Hamburg also expect defender Andreas Fischer and veteran midfielder Thomas Doll to sign new contracts. Plans for next season include bringing in £1.5million midfielder Marcel Katelaer from Borussia Monchengladbach.

Further down the table, Borussia Dortmund's desperation to finish in the Champions League qualifying spots was shown by the decision to replace coach Michael Skibbe with Bernd Krauss after a 1-0 home defeat by Kaiserslautern.

Dortmund had won only once in 10 League games and Skibbe, a controversial choice to succeed Ottmar Hitzfeld just over three years ago because of his inexperience, was sent back to his former role as youth coach. Not even a £20m investment in new players could save him.

Striker Fredi Bobic said: "Skibbe always had problems because, while we have a lot of commitment, we do not have enough inspiration."

That is also a criticism which can be levelled at the national team. The depth of the problem was underlined by a campaign for the reinstatement of veteran midfielder Thomas Hassler. He had played superbly early this season for 1860 Munich but his form dipped at the same time as revelations came out about an affair between his wife and 1860's general manager, Edgar Geenan.

National coach Ribbeck's increasing desperation for new midfield talent led to a call-up, for the game against Holland, for Hungarian-born Zoltan Sebescen only seven games into his Bundesliga career after joining Wolfsburg from Stuttgart Kickers.

Ribbeck has been surprised by the player's development, but said: "For a good player it is easier nowadays than it was 20 years ago to get into the international team."

One of Ribbeck's perpetual gripes is the clubs' insistence on importing players to the detriment of home-grown talent. A new study has shown that 40.1 per cent of Bundesliga players come from outside Germany compared with 37.8 a year ago. No fewer than 226 of the 563 registered top division players are non-German – not the happiest statistic, coming on top of the federation's centenary celebrations.

Finally, spare a thought for Arminia Bielefeld, heading for relegation but making history in the process. Their 2-0 defeat at Wolfsburg was their 10th in a row – equalling the Bundesliga record held by Tasmania Berlin (1965-66) and Nurnberg (1983-84).

Keir Radnedge

Turnaround...Claude Le Roy

In the League, Monaco deserve much credit for turning things around so remarkably this season, and with such a refreshingly young team.

Among the revelations is 19-year-old Norwegian midfielder John Arne Riise, who has done so well that he now has a place in his country's international squad. He was spotted by Monaco's Richard Bettoni playing for Norwegian Second Division side Aalesund, and spirited away before he could play for any leading club in his homeland.

Riise says he was not expecting to be uprooted to a league with such a different ambience, but once he got to Monaco he set to work with a will – and has adjusted impressively. He is tireless, physically powerful, with a formidable left foot.

Chilean defender Pablo Contreras, two years older than Riise, was spotted by former French international wing-half Lucien Muller playing for Colo Colo in Santiago. At first, Contreras, a versatile player who can operate virtually anywhere in defence, seemed likely to be kept in reserve, but he, too, was quick to seize his chance.

Certainly it helped that there were other players with Latin American roots already at Monaco, such as Trezeguet – son of an Argentine pro and raised in Argentine soccer – the dazzling Gallardo, such a star this season, and Marquez.

Andre Duclos

Pro-file Christian

Brazilian marksman hitting the target in Paris at last

THIS is a good time to be a Brazilian forward in France. While Sonny Anderson and Alex have kept the goal-counter ticking over for Lyon and Saint-Etienne respectively, their compatriot Christian is shaping up to be the marksman for whom Paris Saint-Germain have been craving since George Weah left for Milan in 1995.

Not that Christian's £10million move last summer, from Internacional of Porto Alegre, always seemed a marriage made in heaven. During the first three months of this season he looked a lost soul and absolutely nothing went right.

Glorious chances were snatched at, passes were crassly miscontrolled, and he appeared determined to keep running offside. History seemed to be repeating itself for Christian (full name Christian Correa Dionisio). Back in 1992, he had left Internacional for Portugal, only to fail to do himself justice in a three-year, three-club stint with Maritimo, Estoril and Farense.

He returned to Internacional as a flop, but his second stab at the European club scene had a happy ending. Despite his terrible start at PSG, Christian soldiered on in training and, with coach Philippe Bergeroo standing staunchly by him, the rewards eventually came.

Christian opened his French League account in late October with a goal in the 3-2 home win over Sedan, and suddenly everything changed. By early February, his power, impeccable balance and high skill had brought him 13 goals, including a hat-trick in the 3-1 win at Metz and all his side's goals in the 4-2 victory at home to Strasbourg. No wonder a panel of football writers voted him Player of the Month for January.

"When I played in Portugal I was just a kid, still learning about the game," says Christian. "But during my second spell at Internacional, I matured both as a person and player. I was picked for Brazil and this time around I was so much better prepared to make the grade in Europe.

"It was never going to be easy for me to settle at PSG straight away but the critics spurred me on and I became even more determined to prove them wrong.

"I hope that a lot of goals will help us win trophies and push my claims for a spot in the Brazilian starting line-up. Most of my games have been as substitute and I don't intend to stop there."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
Country Brazil
Born April 23, 1974, in Porto Alegre
Previous clubs Internacional, Maritimo (Por), Estoril (Por), Farense (Por), Internacional
International debut September 1998, v Yugoslavia
International caps 9 (1 goal)
Honours Copa America 1999; Rio Grande do Sul state championship 1991, 1992, 1997

Elbowed out...Gascoigne's challenge on Boateng could spell his exit from English soccer

Beckham at the crossroads

The England midfielder's future at Manchester United is in question after bust-up, writes Gavin Hamilton

THE strained relationship between Manchester United's David Beckham and his coach, Alex Ferguson, took a turn for the worse when the midfielder was controversially left out of the line-up to face Leeds United in a vital League match.

The long-term importance of Beckham's omission may prove to be greater than the result on the day – a not insignificant 1-0 victory at Elland Road which extended United's lead over Leeds at the top of the table to six points.

Beckham had missed training two days before the game in order to spend time with his baby son Brooklyn and pop-star wife Victoria. The following day Ferguson took exception and ordered the player out of United's new training complex at Carrington.

The row was the first public recognition by Ferguson that Beckham's celebrity lifestyle is interfering with his football. The manager has never been slow to deal with distracting influences in the dressing-room, as Messrs McGrath, Ince, Whiteside and Sharpe, among others, will testify.

Ferguson may just be using the affair to force Beckham to concentrate on his game – or he may be dropping the first serious hints that United are willing to sell him.

At the heart of the matter is Beckham's relationship with Victoria. He regularly alters his travelling arrangements to be with her at their Hertfordshire home, or with her celebrity friends such as Elton John. Her career demands that she makes regular appearances in the tabloids and celebrity magazines.

Ferguson cannot be comfortable reading about Beckham's penchant for wearing his wife's underwear, incurring speeding charges while escaping from the paparazzi or foiling kidnap attempts on baby Brooklyn.

United's encounter with Leeds took place against the backdrop of growing hysteria about violence in the game. It followed a week in which the FA took severe action against four teams – Leeds, Tottenham, Chelsea and Wimbledon – who had been involved in violent incidents on and off the pitch.

One player who is seemingly capable of punishing himself is Paul Gascoigne. With huge irony, Gazza broke an arm in a horrific elbowed challenge on Aston Villa's George Boateng, for which he now faces punishment by the FA.

The injury could hasten the departure of Gascoigne, 34, from English football. He has been consistently linked with a move to Major League Soccer, and he may now be surplus to requirements at Middlesbrough.

From one tortured soul to another. Troubled striker Stan Collymore finally found a club prepared to take him on after his terrible time at Aston Villa – Midlands rivals Leicester City.

No sooner had Collymore been welcomed to Filbert Street, however, with manager Martin O'Neill proclaiming that he could tame the wild child within him, than Leicester were sent home from a mid-season break in Spain – after Collymore let off a fire extinguisher in a bar, having had one too many drinks with his new team-mates.

Collymore had been ostracised by Villa manager John Gregory after suffering a series of psychological problems last season, and after this latest incident, it seems highly likely that his time at Leicester could go the same way as his spells with Crystal Palace, Southend, Forest and Liverpool. At 29, it could be his last chance.

On the pitch, Liverpool have been making admirable progress under Gerard Houllier. They moved up to third place after a 1-0 win over Arsenal at Highbury.

Last season, Liverpool were the League's second highest scorers, but were let down by a leaky defence. This year, they have struggled to find the net with Michael Owen and Robbie Fowler both injured, but have more than compensated at the other end. New signings Sami Hyypia and Stephane Henchoz have formed a solid central defensive partnership, and Liverpool have conceded the fewest number of goals of any team in the top flight.

After a sluggish start, when they lost German midfielder Dietmar Hamann with an ankle injury, Houllier's numerous foreign signings have integrated well. In addition, local youngsters such as Steven Gerrard, Jamie Carragher and David Thompson also have made an impression.

On the managerial front, the most significant appointment has been made at Southampton, where former England manager Glenn Hoddle has replaced Dave Jones. Hoddle has been short of offers since relinquishing the England job, and now finds himself at the wrong end of the Premier League.

SCOTLAND

Barnes goes after McDonald gaffes

THE DOWNSIDE of allowing individuals with a non-footballing background to hold key positions within Scottish football has been highlighted again by the actions of Celtic chief executive Allan McDonald.

His handling of the John Barnes affair, which culminated in the coach's resignation, created controversy. So too did the admission by McDonald, a former chairman of British Aerospace, that he had engaged a top psychoanalyst to prepare a report on the performance of referee Hugh Dallas during last May's crucial Old Firm game.

That match was won 3-0 by Rangers, who duly took the championship, and Dallas was hurt by a coin thrown from the crowd.

The referee is believed to be furious at the action taken by McDonald, especially since he made public a section of the report based on a videotape of the game in which there were suggestions that Dallas's body language indicated a degree of camaraderie with the Rangers

On his way...John Barnes

players, and had as a consequence helped spark the violent crowd scenes that followed.

The furore surrounding the report constituted merely one of many setbacks for Celtic so far this year, starting with the cancellation of their Scottish Cup tie with Inverness Caledonian Thistle due to a safety scare following damage to their newly-opened Lisbon Lions stand.

A subsequent 3-2 home defeat by Hearts virtually ended any hope of Celtic winning the championship, since it left Rangers 10 points clear at the top. The situation worsened a few days later when they were knocked out of the Scottish Cup, defeated 3-1 at home by Inverness in one of the greatest shocks in Scottish soccer history. The result led to Kenny Dalglish taking over the team, with Barnes making as dignified an exit as possible.

Alan Fairley

WALES

Conwy join the crisis queue

ANOTHER National League club has cash problems. Following Inter Cardiff and Caernarfon Town, Conwy United have asked players to take a wage cut while the club overcome difficulties caused by postponements of home matches.

Conwy's Morfa stadium developed drainage problems and no home matches were played between November 27 and January 15, reducing income drastically. In addition, the club were forced to spend on curing the problem.

With Caernarfon Town firmly entrenched in bottom place, the struggle to avoid the drop seems to be between Conwy, Rhayader Town – who parted company with manager Lenny Elwill – Inter Cardiff, Rhyl and Afan Lido.

At the top Barry Town are still clinging to the lead, despite injuries reducing their squad to just 15.

Mel Thomas

N. IRELAND

Arkins sparks Portadown

WITH Linfield almost 20 points clear in the League, the main interest is the race for the runners-up UEFA Cup spot.

None of the four contenders, Glentoran, Glenavon, Coleraine and Portadown, has found a real vein of consistency, though Portadown have been impressive in recent weeks.

Vinny Arkins, who has averaged a goal a game this season, celebrated his 100th League goal since joining Portadown in January 1997.

At the bottom of the Premier League, Lisburn Distillery, promoted last season, had looked certain to make a quick return to the First Division, but some recent good performances took them above Ballymena.

Glentoran added the County Antrim Shield to their success in the Nationwide Gold Cup by beating First Division Bangor 2-1 in the Final.

Roy Kitson

Pro-file Rafael Scheidt

Brazil defender bringing his talents to Scotland

A DECADE ago Brazil had more quality centre-backs than they knew what to do with. Then the river ran dry.

As all Brazilian clubs became fixated with the defensive midfielder and his systematic use of fouling, the new generation of centre-backs were over-protected. They never learnt the basics of sound defending, and were exposed whenever they stepped up to international level.

But new talents are emerging, such as Roque Junior, so impressive for Palmeiras against Manchester United in the World Club Cup, and Celtic's bold new capture, Rafael Scheidt.

Had it not been for a strange doping scandal, Scheidt would have won many more than his three caps. He made his debut against Japan in March last year and immediately looked at home in a Brazil shirt. A starting place in the Copa America seemed assured – until he tested positive for the steroid DHEA, and was suspended.

However, further tests cast doubt on the original result because some doctors claimed that his body could have produced the substance naturally. The suspension was lifted – but in terms of the Copa America the damage was done.

"It was hard watching the competition on TV," says Scheidt, "knowing that but for this whole unfortunate business I would have been there."

He need not have worried – the vulnerability of the Brazil centre-backs made him look all the better, and he went straight back into the team.

On his return he transmitted the same aura of quiet control that had caught the eye with Gremio. He is good in the air and firm but fair on the ground, and his excellent passing means that he also serves as a springboard to attack.

Scheidt's career was given a kick-start by a year on loan to Kawasaki Frontale in Japan. "At the time I was the fifth reserve at Gremio," he recalls, "so there wasn't much chance of getting a game. The club sent me to Japan to gain experience, and I took full advantage. I played well, and took my form back to Brazil when I returned to Gremio."

In his new surroundings at Celtic he is well aware that participation in a European club competition is on the cards every season. "Any ambitious player wants to improve his life," says Scheidt, confident that the new challenges he is facing, at a club now in turmoil after recent upheavals, will ensure that he maintains his progress.

Tim Vickery

Fact file

Club Celtic (Sco)
Country Brazil
Born February 10, 1976, in Porto Alegre
Previous clubs Gremio, Kawasaki Frontale (Jap)
International debut March 1999, v Japan
International caps 3
Honours Rio Grande do Sul state championship 1999

Zurich's Europe hopes in tatters

A foreign body too many has brought demotion, writes Ivar von Rulach

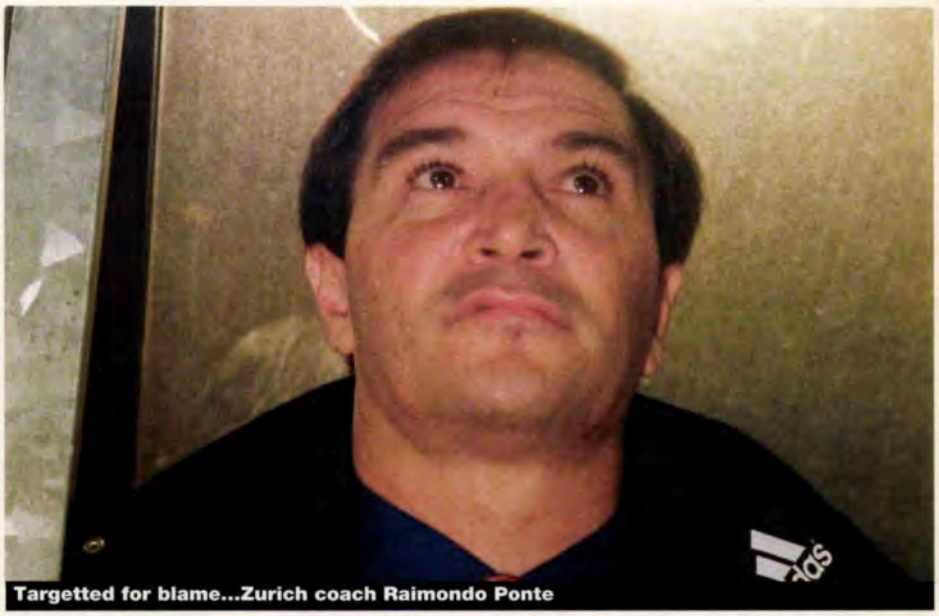
SWITZERLAND

FC ZURICH'S chances of playing in Europe next season were wrecked when a Swiss FA tribunal confirmed a disciplinary committee ruling that Neuchatel Xamax should replace them in the final rounds of the eight-team domestic championship play-offs.

The committee upheld a protest from Neuchatel that Zurich had listed eight foreigners on the match-sheet, instead of the seven allowed, in the last game of the qualifying stage, which ended 1-1. The match was awarded to Neuchatel 3-0, which was enough to consign Zurich to the promotion/relegation play-offs.

Zurich appealed, claiming there were technical irregularities in the SFA's handling of the case, but their claims were rejected. The tribunal said that the committee's decision had been based on repeated infringements of the regulations relating to foreigners by Zurich coach Raimondo Ponte.

The search for a successor to national team coach Gilbert Gress looked to have narrowed to two candidates – Argentinian Enzo Trossero, fired by Lugano's Italian bosses at the start of the season, and former Dutch World Cup star, Johann Neeskens, who trains a Swiss amateur club. Trossero is contracted to Independiente of Buenos Aires until June.



Targetted for blame...Zurich coach Raimondo Ponte

St Gallen were hit by tragedy when a coach carrying their Under-19 squad went off the road and overturned on its way to a training camp near Cape Town in South Africa. Several of the youngsters were injured and it is feared that one, Thomas Koeppel, might never walk again.

Basle coach Christian Gross has finally had enough of Russian Sacha Rychkov, who, for the second year running, failed to return from his home in Siberia in time for training, despite a severe warning and £13,000 fine last year. He has now been sacked and given a free transfer.

PORTUGAL

Santa Clara on the slide

WHILE the Big Three again dominate the top of the League, many neutral fans will be upset at Santa Clara's inability to last the pace.

Santa Clara, based in the Azores, won promotion last season and went into the top division for the first time since their foundation in 1921.

After a reasonable start they have dropped back and seem almost sure to be relegated. After 21 games they had only 17 points and were next to bottom.

The only team below Santa Clara, surprisingly enough, are Vitoria Setubal, who finished fifth last season but have taken only 13 points from a possible 63 this time.

At the top, Porto remain in the driving seat with 48 points, one ahead of Sporting and four in front of Benfica, who have shown vastly improved form of late and could yet overhaul the leaders.

But they could do with a marksman to match Porto's Jardel, who has scored 27 goals – 14 more than anyone else in the First Division.

Benfica are to form a public limited company, separate from the football club, in order to bring in money from new shareholders and other sources. Player contracts are being switched to the plc.

Alberto da Silva

HOLLAND

Ajax centenary without cheer

AJAX are celebrating their 100th anniversary, but they have little about which to be cheerful. They are currently suffering from one of their worst crises, both on and off the pitch, which reached new depths when Danny Blind, responsible for transfers and everything concerning players, announced his departure after only nine months.

Blind felt that he was not being taken seriously enough, and his ideas often caused internal clashes with other directors and the coach, Jan Wouters.

There have been few moments of joy on the pitch, either. After an early elimination from the UEFA Cup and the national Cup, the only prize Ajax could still win was the title, but a 4-0 defeat at PSV means that this hope has almost disappeared.

After the match a demoralised Wouters said he felt deserted by the players.

All these negative affairs proved too much for the hardcore fans, some of whom showed their dissatisfaction by locking the players in their training ground the day after the PSV game and causing minor damage to the stadium following the home match against Willem II.

Vitesse Arnhem are also facing a crisis, having slipped deep into debt, and as a result have fired their charismatic chairman, Karel Aalbers. When the ambitious Aalbers took over 16 years ago, Vitesse were a modest club at the bottom of the Second Division. He transformed them into title contenders and also built the futuristic Gelredome. However, all this cost money, hence the financial problems.

Even so, new coach Ronald Koeman has done a remarkable job since his appointment in January. In his second match in charge, Vitesse eliminated PSV from the national Cup, and his team still are outsiders for the title.

For the first time since 1981 none of Holland's big three survived the third round of the Cup. However, after 22 rounds they held the top spots in the League, PSV leading Ajax

Departure...Danny Blind

by seven points, with Feyenoord three further back.

Klaas-Jan Droppert

BELGIUM

Fadiga returns to face the music

CLUB BRUGGE'S 25-year-old striker Khalilou Fadiga, who volleyed a splendid goal for Senegal in their African Nations Cup quarter-final against Nigeria, was fortunate not to go straight to prison on his return to Belgium from Lagos.

He had taken part in a post-match brawl with supporters of Mechelen while playing for Lommel almost three years ago, and was sentenced during his absence to a month's imprisonment and fined £330.

Fadiga was not in court to defend himself, and apparently knew nothing of the case.

Bart Peeters, another Lommel player involved in the incident, was fined only £165 and escaped a jail

Jail sentence...Khalilou Fadiga

sentence, so Brugge have appealed against Fadiga's punishment, pointing out that he was not even represented at the hearing.

On the pitch and without Fadiga, who had been left out as a disciplinary measure before embarking for Nigeria, Brugge's fortunes have slumped. A shock 2-1 home defeat by Harelbeke left them nine points behind leaders Anderlecht and was followed by the resignation of coach Rene Verheyen, although he has agreed to stay on as assistant.

Standard Liege have emerged as the main threat to Anderlecht's supremacy by winning seven games on the trot, the last six under new coach Jean Thissen, a former Anderlecht player.

Clubs beaten during that run included defending champions Genk, whose 5-1 defeat seriously undermined coach Jos Heyligen's chances of keeping his job. The axe finally fell the following week after a 2-1 home defeat by Charleroi.

Heyligen had succeeded Aime Anthuenis – who had left for Anderlecht – and was not helped during his reign by the departure of strikers Branko Strupar, to Derby, and Souleymane Oulare, to Fenerbahce.

Former Georgia national coach Johan Boskamp cut short his negotiations with Morocco to take the Genk job. Mouscron welcomed him by sending Genk to an embarrassing 5-0 defeat.

Lowly Geel have appointed Hungarian Sandor Popovics as coach, in succession to Paul Put, who was sacked in January.

Nicholas Harling

REP IRELAND

New ground hits snags

THE FA of Ireland is pressing ahead with plans to build the 45,000-capacity Eircom Park on the south side of Dublin, even though the Irish government announced recently that it was going to build an 80,000 stadium in the north of the city.

One can only have sympathy for the FAI. For decades they were criticised for not having their own stadium (they currently rent Lansdowne Road from the Irish Rugby Football Union). Now they get a site and major sponsorship, and the government steps in and spoils their plans.

Don Givens is the new manager of the Under-21 team. He replaces Ian Evans, who will continue as No 2 to national team coach Mick McCarthy.

The Republic will play Greece for the first time on April 26, and Scotland will visit Lansdowne Road on May 30.

Sean Creedon

LUXEMBOURG

Four on the run

THE game against Northern Ireland was the first in a run of four home friendlies. The others are against Estonia on April 26, Slovenia (June 3) and Spain (June 7).

Two of the country's top players are on the move. Guy Hellers, former captain of Standard Liege, is returning home to join F91 Dudelange, and national team captain Marc Birsens is leaving Union Luxembourg for Union Rumelange.

Tim Brice

Pro-file Ole-Martin Arst

Norwegian on course for the Belgian golden boot

FREE-SCORING Belgian club Gent are pinning their hopes of UEFA Cup qualification on their Norwegian connection – coach Trond Sollied, and forwards Totto Dahlum and marksman-in-chief Ole-Martin Arst.

Gent have been the only side to keep pace with runaway leaders Anderlecht in the attacking stakes this season – after 23 rounds Gent had 56 goals to Anderlecht's 57 – and that is in large part down to the aerial power and opportunism of Arst, who has already reached the 20-goal mark.

"It does my confidence no end of good when I think that I have a real chance of becoming Belgium's leading scorer this season," says Arst. "[Westerlo's Toni] Brogno is probably the only one who can stop me and it should be a very interesting long-distance duel between us.

"I'm not one of those players who claims that it doesn't matter whether you score or not, that the most important thing is victory for the team. I want to score and for Gent to win. On the other hand, I'm not on the pitch on my own. This season I've had some great service – the chances haven't stopped coming. I'm optimistic that I'll keep scoring and Gent will get into Europe."

Arst, 25 and in his third season in Belgian football, has had his share of ups and downs since leaving Tromso for Anderlecht in autumn 1997. In his first season he finished as the Brussels club's top marksman with 10 goals – no mean feat for someone who arrived with a third of the term completed.

But in 1998-99, injuries and poor form made Arst a peripheral figure and he was off-loaded to Gent last summer. "Anderlecht have no reason to regret letting Ole-Martin go," says Gent midfielder Gunther Schepens. "They have one hand on the championship. But to get a striker of his ability was a fantastic deal for us."

Arst was called up by Norway for the Nordic tournament in La Manga in early February, winning his first full cap in a goalless draw with Iceland.

But with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Tore Andre Flo, Steffen Iversen, John Carew, Jan Derek Sorensen, Andreas Lund and Egil Ostenstad all ahead of him in the pecking order, the chances are that he will miss the Euro 2000 boat.

A more likely scenario is a move to the Premiership. He is a big fan of English football and cannot have failed to notice the success of former Gent team-mate Cedric Roussel at Coventry City. If Roussel can do it, so can Arst.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Gent (Blg)
Country Norway
Born July 19, 1974, in Skarp
Previous clubs IF Skarp, Sogndal, Tromso, Anderlecht (Blg)
International debut January 2000, v Iceland
International caps 1 (0 goals)
Honours Norwegian Cup 1996 (Tromso)

Laudrup sticks to his guns

DENMARK

Jim Holden on a failed attempt to procure an international comeback

DENMARK coach Bo Johansson has failed to persuade Brian Laudrup to come out of international retirement for the Euro 2000 finals. The Ajax forward resolutely refused to succumb to the temptation of appearing in another major tournament.

"I had a lovely chat with Brian; explained I would like to put out the strongest possible Danish side, and he would be part of it," said Johansson. "He was very polite but told me he had made a definite decision to retire from the national side. We all have to respect that decision, and I won't be asking again."

Many Danish fans had hoped that the younger Laudrup might be persuaded back – especially as his brother, Michael, will become assistant to Morten Olsen when Johansson steps down after Euro 2000.

Johansson revealed the discussion with Laudrup after Denmark had lost all three matches – to Sweden, Norway and Finland – in the Nordic tournament in La Manga at the start of February.

The side almost totally comprised domestic League players, and few shone. One who did was OB Odense defender Michael Hemmingsen, with Johansson saying: "He played with great strength and turned himself into a candidate for the Euro 2000 squad. That was something positive to take home. The others who did well were tried and tested players – Soren Colding, Brian Steen Nielsen and Peter Kjaer."

Back home, Euro 92 hero Lars Elstrup's return from a Buddhist-style religious cult proved short-lived. Within a fortnight of beginning training with his old club, OB, it was clear that the 37-year-old simply did not have the fitness to play top-level football.

Elstrup rejected an offer from OB to train at a lower level than the first-team squad, and his future remains uncertain.

Over and out...Laudrup will not be lured out of retirement

Sound displays...Henning Berg

NORWAY

Lund leaves for London

ANDREAS LUND'S move from Molde finally materialised when former Norway coach Egil Olsen signed him for Wimbledon for £2.5million on a three-year contract. Lund was thrown into action against Chelsea a couple of days after his arrival and scored in a 3-1 defeat.

At Lillestrom the gap left by Heidar Helguson's departure for Watford has been filled by Magnus Powell, signed from Swedish champions Helsingborgs.

The Norwegian FA certainly made a useful acquisition when it invested in the sports centre at La Manga in southern Spain some years ago. In early February all the Scandinavian national teams met there for a tournament, and the national coaches gave home-based players priority.

Norway coach Nils Johan Semb used the opportunity to select seven debutants, and the three matches enabled him to experiment.

His side drew 0-0 with Iceland, beat Denmark 4-2 (with Lund probably clinching a Euro 2000 place

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by scoring twice as a substitute) and drew 1-1 with Sweden.

Vidar Riseth, chosen at left-back for the first time, against Iceland, was a revelation, while Henning Berg showed that he is still a sound central defender despite lack of first-team chances with Manchester United. He also scored two of Norway's goals against Denmark, making up for a poor back pass which had gifted the Danes the lead.

Sigurd Odegaard

SWEDEN

Champions seek new striker

HELSINGBORGS will set out to defend their League title with a new-look side. The question is: have they lost their former firepower?

Their squad has suffered considerable losses during the close season. Top scorer Arild Stavrum's move to Aberdeen was followed by the departures of Kenneth Storvik (Rosenborg), Mattias Jonsson (Brondby) and Magnus Powell (Lillestrom).

Next season, the midfield will be run by Bjorn Johansson, from Norway's Tromso, and Michael Hansson, from Trelleborgs. The onus for scoring will rest on the talented but erratic Johan Wallinder, signed from Orebro.

The search is on for another striker. "We have signed a co-operation deal with Coventry and hope to test their young forward Chukkie Eribenne for two months," says assistant coach Hans Carell.

Sweden's matches against Norway and Denmark in La Manga introduced a couple of interesting names for coaches Tommy Soderberg and Lars Lagerback. Midfielder Anders Svensson from Elfsborg provided the midfield with flashes of intelligence and skill, while Anders Andersson, the former Blackburn player currently with Denmark's Aalborg, could be a surprise addition. His energy and determination make him a potential long-term replacement for Stefan Schwarz.

Pentti Hietanen

FINLAND

'Hammer' makes his mark

FINLAND'S first matches under coach Antti Muurinen in the Nordic tournament at La Manga produced two victories and one defeat. The national team finished on a high by beating Denmark 2-1. The man of the moment was HJK Helsinki winger Vesa Vasara, whose pace caught the Danish defence napping on two occasions. Vasara – the name means 'hammer' in Finnish – has been one of Finland's most promising players for years, but has failed to make the breakthrough expected.

In the absence of players based in countries with winter football, the team was captained by Tommi Gronlund, from Sweden's Trelleborgs. Striker Antti Sumiala, who has moved from Holland's Twente to FC Jokerit, also returned to the national side.

Estonian players have become trendy in the Finnish League. The latest to move across the Finnish Gulf are midfielder Marko Kristal and striker Indrek Zelinski, both signed by FC Lahti from Flora Tallinn.

Pentti Hietanen

ICELAND

Record start for Atli

ATLI EDVALDSSON had a fine start to his reign as national coach, earning a place in the record books by becoming the first Iceland boss to avoid defeat in his initial three games in charge.

Edvaldsson took a reshaped squad, including three new caps, to the distinctly warmer climes of La Manga, where his team drew 0-0 with Norway, and followed up with wins against Finland (1-0) and the Faroe Islands (3-2).

Outlook sunny...Atli Edvaldsson

On the transfer front, Keflavik exchanged goalkeeper Bjarki Gudmundsson for KR's second-string keeper, Gunnleifur Gunnleifsson – the first deal of its kind in Icelandic soccer.

Rab Christie

Pro-file Eirik Bakke

Like father, like son – he's one with talent to burn

AFTER starting this season on the bench, Leeds United's Norwegian midfielder Eirik Bakke has turned out to be one of the revelations of the Premiership.

Leeds manager David O'Leary stressed that the youngster was essentially 'one for the future' after signing him for £1.75million from Second Division Sogndal last summer, saying that the likes of David Batty, David Hopkin, Lee Bowyer and Stephen McPhail would take preference for first-team places.

But injuries meant Bakke was offered his chance last autumn, and how well he seized the opportunity. He marked his Premiership debut by creating a goal for Bowyer in the 3-2 home win over Newcastle in September, and his industry, slick passing and reading of the game have become staples of a bright and breezy young side challenging for the title.

"I'd always wanted to play in England," says Bakke. "The atmosphere and the excitement in the Premiership are unique and my transfer to Leeds was just the sort of challenge I needed. It's fantastic to be playing regularly for Leeds and to know that we are one of the best teams in England at the moment. But I have to keep working hard. There are so many good players here that I cannot stand still."

Bakke always seemed likely to be a footballer of some standing. His father, Svein, racked up 320 goals for Sogndal before becoming club president, and it was on the same turf that Eirik began to hone his skills.

He was a prodigy. After appearing in his first senior game for Sogndal at 15, he shone in a variety of positions over the next six years and predictably became a pillar of the Norwegian Under-21s, eventually taking over the captaincy.

"Everyone at Sogndal talks of the 1993 side which contained Tore Andre, Jostein and Havard Flo," says former Sogndal coach Oyvind Nilsen. "But some time in the future, people will think of this club as the old home of Eirik Bakke."

A richly-deserved first full cap duly came Bakke's way in a Tri-Nations tournament match against Israel in January last year, and his outstanding form can only enhance his chances of inclusion in Norway's Euro 2000 squad.

He faces stiff competition from vastly more experienced players. But, then again, Bakke was not supposed to start for Leeds United either.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Leeds United (Eng)
Country Norway
Born September 13, 1977, in Sogndal
Previous club Sogndal IL
International debut January 1999, v Israel
International caps 2 (0 goals)

Alefantos goes after things turn nasty

Lou Economopoulos on the departure of a controversial coach

Welcome return...Zahovic is back and scoring for Olympiakos

GREECE

OUTSPOKEN coach Nikos Alefantos felt distinctly unloved on Valentine's Day when he was fired by First Division side Panahaiki. The end for Alefantos, who constantly appears in the Greek media thanks to his antics, came after a 2-1 home defeat by Aris Thessaloniki. But even before this result, he knew his time was up.

Alefantos had only recently angered club officials, and virtually everyone else, by making nasty comments about Kostis Stephanopoulos, the most popular president in the Greek republic's history.

Stephanopoulos had jokingly made a comment to a group of children that Panahaiki, his favourite team, were not doing well this season. This irked Alefantos, who called the President a number of unpleasant names during a post-match press conference.

Ironically, Stephanopoulos had begged Panahaiki officials not to sack the coach, but he has now been replaced by Christos Archontidis.

Olympiakos remained on top of the table, with Slovenian Zlatko Zahovic, who returned to the club in January after going on strike for two months, scoring in the third minute of injury time to secure a 1-0 win over Panionios. That result left Olympiakos a point clear of Panathinaikos.

A 14-year-old Panahaiki fan lost his right eye when an Olympiakos supporter threw a stone at him during the match between the two clubs.

TURKEY

No stopping Galatasaray

A FOURTH successive championship looks certain for Galatasaray, who after 20 rounds led Besiktas by 11 points and Fenerbahce by 15.

In addition, Gala won 2-1 at Trabzonspor to reach the Turkish Cup semi-finals, thanks largely to a superb display by Sergen Yalcin, who scored both their goals.

They now meet Ankaragucu, with Antalyaspor facing Bursaspor in the other tie.

Gala also won the Gazi Cup, a five-club tournament played to raise money for young victims of last year's earthquakes. They beat Schalke of Germany 2-0 in the Final.

Francis Aneka, a 19-year-old Nigerian on trial with Istanbulspor, has been deported after testing HIV positive. He had been playing in Cyprus and was apparently deported from that country for the same reason, though he claims to have left for Turkey of his own accord.

However, Turkish newspapers obtained copies of both the Cypriot medical report and the deportation order.

Hasan Cemali

Match-winner...Sergen Yalcin

CROATIA

Dinamo are back

FC CROATIA ZAGREB fans were saluting a victory when it was announced that the club were going to revert to their old name – Dinamo.

The fans look upon the title as a symbol of Croatian independence but the word Dinamo had been dropped from the club's name on the orders of late national president Franjo Tudjman in 1991.

They were then briefly known as Hask-Gradjanski (a combination of the names of two pre-war clubs), before the official title became Croatia Zagreb.

Although Tudjman backed the club in every way he could, many supporters would not forgive him for changing the name. At the end of last year they demanded that the club's old name be reinstated and now, following Tudjman's death, club officials have acquiesced.

The re-naming did not go entirely smoothly, however. In one argument, new club director, Velimir Zajec, was hit on the head by an ashtray.

Zdravko Reic

YUGOSLAVIA

Shangdong pull them in

THE event itself was hardly special. Red Star and Chinese champions Shangdong played a friendly in Belgrade, which ended in a 3-1 win for the hosts. But the attendance of nearly 10,000 showed the hunger of domestic fans for matches against foreign opposition; particularly if one considers that at the same time, in the same city, no fewer than four First Division matches were taking place – with a total attendance of about 3,000!

League leaders Obilic were lucky to get a 2-2 draw at home against OFK, a result that for many observers was the first sign that in the 'time after Arkan' things might not go that smoothly for the club.

Partizan and Red Star lie in wait for further blunders by Obilic.

Vladimir Novak

MACEDONIA

Draw goes against Dragan

NATIONAL coach Dragan Kanatlarovski did not get his wish when the draw for the 2002 World Cup qualifiers was made.

He wanted to open the group games by playing Sweden, but the draw

means that Macedonia will start with a visit to Slovakia in September.

Two tournaments were held in Macedonia in advance of the League season restart. Yugoslavia's Vojvodina Novi Sad won the first in Dojran, beating Sloga in the Final; Pobeda took the other, in Kavadarci, beating Partizan Belgrade on penalties.

Michel Stojmanovski

ISRAEL

Nielsen sticks with familiar faces

NEW coach Richard Moller Nielsen made few changes to the national team previously managed by Shlomo Scharf when he announced his squad for the friendly against Russia. And while Haim Revivo asked to be released due to Celta Vigo's heavy match schedule, Nielsen made it clear that the forward is still very much in his thoughts.

There was only one new player in the party – Hapoel Tel Aviv's Kfir Udi. The tall striker was one of only two

Still considered...Haim Revivo

forwards named in the side, Nielsen having discarded out-of-form Ronen Harazi and Alon Mizrahi.

Goalkeeper Rafi Cohen, who was humiliated live on TV by Scharf following Israel's 2-1 home defeat by Spain in October 1998, also received a recall, as did Beitar Jerusalem goalkeeper Itzik Kornfein.

League leaders Hapoel Tel Aviv are two points clear of main rivals Maccabi Haifa, though they have been faltering of late. At the bottom, Hapoel Jerusalem look all but doomed.

Ori Lewis

CYPRUS

Engomitis the best

ANORTHOSIS midfielder Yiotis Engomitis has swept the board in recent polls in the country. First the Sports Writers' Union named him best Cypriot athlete of 1999; then coaches, team captains and sports journalists named him best Cypriot player in a poll organised by the *Fileleftheros* newspaper; the readers of the *Simerini* paper also put him top.

Engomitis has led Anorthosis to the top of the League and the national team to some remarkable results, including a 3-2 win over Spain.

Soulis Theodosiou

MALTA

100 up for Busuttil

CARMEL BUSUTTIL, who made his international debut in 1982, became the first Maltese player to win 100 caps when he appeared in the 3-0 win over Azerbaijan at the recent Rothmans tournament.

Busuttil and another veteran, John Buttigieg, were the outstanding players in the competition. The opening win over Azerbaijan, a 1-1 draw against Andorra and an unlucky 1-0 defeat by eventual tournament winners Albania proved that Malta are on the right track again. Just before the tournament they also beat Lebanon 1-0 and Qatar 2-0.

The top-of-the-table clash between Valletta and Birkirkara ended 1-1, but was marred by four players being sent off.

Domenico Aquilina

ALBANIA

Mehdin off the mark

NEW national coach Mehdin Zhega made a good start by taking his squad to victory in the four-nation competition in Malta.

The opposition was not of a high standard, but the young Albanians showed excellent form in beating Andorra 3-0, Azerbaijan 1-0 and Malta 1-0.

Geri Cipi, the 23-year-old captain and stopper, was outstanding, as were Viorel Sinani and Devis Muka.

Ervin Bogdani became the first Albanian to join a Serie A club for half a century when signing for Reggina. Bogdani, 23, began with Partizan Tirana and played for Croatia Zagreb last season.

Gezim Nushi

Pro-file Mustafa Dogan

Young Turk has Germany's top clubs in a spin

GERMANY calling! Virtually every leading club in the Bundesliga have a priority: to recruit young German national team stopper Mustafa Dogan.

He is 24, in his third season at Fenerbahce following a £1million move from Bayer Uerdingen, and spoilt for choice about his next move, with Bayern Munich, Borussia Dortmund, Bayer Leverkusen, Kaiserslautern, Stuttgart and Hamburg all drooling over him.

No doubt the huge interest in Dogan has been intensified by the fact that he comes without a price-tag – his contract at Fenerbahce runs out in June. But more importantly, in a Germany not exactly overflowing with youthful talent, he is a rare example of up-and-coming class.

Dogan's best work is as a central defensive marker but he can also do a job as a sweeper or in a midfield holding role – versatility that has helped make his fan club an ever-growing band. Germany Under-21 coach Hannes Lohr speaks of him developing into "the new Jurgen Kohler", while Karlsruhe's Joachim Low, who worked with Dogan at Fenerbahce, is equally complimentary.

"During his time in Turkey, he has really blossomed," says Low. "His defensive game has become much sharper through competing with all the tricky, technical forwards in the Turkish League. He's a very determined character, very strong-willed. Whether in a training session or in a game, he gives absolutely everything."

Dogan was the first player from Germany's large Turkish community to make the senior *Nationalmannschaft*. He was born in the southern Turkish town of Yalvaz, and was only two when his family emigrated to the Ruhr region of Germany. At 12, Mustafa joined the junior ranks of local Bundesliga club Bayer Uerdingen, and became a star of one of Germany's most productive youth academies. Four years later, he signed his first full-time contract, and by the time he was 20 he was a regular first-teamer and a German Under-21 international.

"It wasn't difficult for me to choose to represent Germany rather than Turkey," says Dogan. "I was brought up and went to school in Germany and I'm proud to play for Germany. It's my country. I'd love to be in the German squad for Euro 2000. I've made a couple of substitute appearances for the national team. But there's a long way for me to go before I can feel like a true international."

A move to the Bundesliga could speed up the process.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Fenerbahce (Tur)
Country Germany
Born January 1, 1976, in Yalvaz, Turkey
Previous club Bayer Uerdingen
International debut July 1999, v USA
International caps 2 (0 goals)

Adamec deserted by his 'A' list

...but the coach still finds some success, writes Bob Vaughan

SLOVAKIA

THE national team travelled to Latin America for their recent tour without a number of key figures, including Miroslav Konig, Robert Tomaschek, Jozef Majoros and Peter Dubovsky, whose places were taken by players based in Slovakia.

When coach Jozef Adamec was asked if he felt he would be fielding a 'B' team, he answered: "No, 'C'!"

Even so, the trip was not without success. In the Valparaiso Cup in Chile, Slovakia surprised their hosts by winning 2-0, the goals coming from Igor Balis and Ondrej Smelko. This result followed a 1-0 defeat by Bulgaria and a goalless draw against Australia.

Adamec had been urged by critics to blood some of the Under-21 side, who had qualified for the European finals to be held in Slovakia in May and June. However, they were representing the country in the Cyprus tournament.

Konig, meanwhile, was preparing for his debut in the Swiss League with Grasshopper. His former club, Slovan, have also sold Tomaschek to Hertha Berlin.

Majoros is another likely leaver, and such sales, made for financial reasons, would seem to rule out a championship challenge from the club. Neighbours Inter or possibly Kosice must now be the favourites for the title.

Consolation prize...Jozef Adamec

UKRAINE

Dynamo build double squad

KYIV DYNAMO are going into the second half of the season with a new strategy, according to head coach Valerii Lobanovskyi. "Results in the previous year showed us that it is impossible to play at a high level in three or four tournaments with a limited number of quality players," he said. "We need to have at least two equal squads.

"Look at our playing calendar in March and April. We have to play matches in the Ukraine Cup on the day after the Champions League."

Lobanovskyi was very busy in the transfer market over the winter, and the club now have no fewer than 40 players on their books.

The latest newcomers include Ukraine Under-21 goalkeeper Marjan Marushak from FC Lviv, Ukraine international forward Roman Maksymuk from Russia's Zenit Saint Petersburg, and Igor Kostuk, who returned to Kyiv after a long spell with Vorskla Poltava.

Departures include Alexander Kosyrin to Maccabi Tel Aviv, Denis Onyschenko to Maccabi Haifa, Sergiy Shmatovalenko to Sherif of Moldova, and Alexander Kirukhin and Victor Leonenko to Kryliya Sovetov of Russia.

Oleg Zadernovsky

POLAND

FA facing Euro exit

THE Polish FA (PZPN) may have to declare bankruptcy and withdraw teams from European competition because of debts resulting from unpaid value-added tax.

PZPN chairman Michal Listkiewicz has called on the state to reduce the £2.2million bill, and plans an appeal.

The situation is a legacy of former FA chief Marian Dziurowicz's reign and his belief that the association did not have to pay VAT because "its aim is not to make profits but soccer promotion".

Legia Warsaw are favourites for the title ahead of the season's restart. They reinforced their squad by buying defenders Pawel Wojtala (Hamburg) and Rafal Siadaczka (Austria Wien), national team sweeper Tomasz Lapinski and striker Marek Citko (both Widzew Lodz).

Dariusz Kurowski

RUSSIA

Wembley switch angers fans

THE cancellation of the proposed England-Russia friendly, originally pencilled in for Wembley on May 31, has angered fans – especially as England will now play Ukraine instead.

The Russian Football Union approached their English counterparts late last year with a proposal for a visit to Wembley. But early in February the Russians received a fax from Ukraine saying that England had refused to accept the fixture.

The next day another fax arrived in Moscow, this time from London, saying that England "had reached an agreement" with another association.

Some people feel that the decision has a political bias, saying that Russia's highly unpopular military actions in Chechnya are the reason for England's decision.

A spokesman for the English FA said they did not want to go to Moscow for a return match in 2001, which had been made a precondition by the Russians. Ukraine had not made any such proposal.

Victor Gusev

AUSTRIA

Stronach spreads a wide net

FRANK STRONACH, the Austro-Canadian millionaire and president of the Federal League, is in the news again. He has pumped over £10million into Austrian football, an enormous sum for sport in a small country, but there are fears that his many links to football will cause a conflict of interests.

Stronach has stated his determination that Austria Wien become the top side in the country and his Magna Entertainment company is taking over the professional side of the club, promising to inject £10million in the next five seasons. But he has also put money into other clubs such as Grazer AK, FC Tirol Innsbruck and Salzburg. In addition, he is involved in the "rights to transfer certain players", as well as holding an interest in pools.

Toni Polster is back home. Monchengladbach proved not quite the 36-year-old's cup of tea and now he is hoping to lift Salzburg up the table. He is also aiming for another six caps, which would make him the first Austrian to represent his country 100 times.

Bob Vaughan

BULGARIA

Stoichkov gets technical

HRISTO STOICHKOV has agreed to work as the technical director at the Bulgarian Football Union, instead of taking a coaching course. He also quashed rumours that he would be

taking over at Romanian side Universitatea Craiova.

What his new job entails is still not quite clear, nor how it relates to new national coach Stoicho Mladenov.

Bob Vaughan

CZECH REP

Odds against Sparta

CHAMPIONS Sparta went into the spring programme with a four-point deficit to make up on Slavia and with two crucial Champions League ties coming up against Hertha.

However, attempts to strengthen the squad met with no success. Schalke could not be persuaded to let Jiri Nemec return home, and 1860

Staying put...Jiri Nemec (right)

gave the thumbs-down when asked about the Czech contingent in Munich – Tomas Votava, Martin Cizek and Roman Tyce.

Bob Vaughan

HUNGARY

Gazszer and Pecs merge

TEN DAYS before the spring campaign got under way, financially troubled First Division club Gazszer FC announced that they were merging with MFC Pecs, long since out of the elite and based the best part of 100 miles away.

Gazszer's financial difficulties stem from the fact that sponsors are increasingly difficult to find and that their 18,000-capacity stadium is rarely even a third full.

There is no major football club close to Pecs, where it is presumed the 'fused' club will play home matches, but it is difficult to see how the merger will benefit Gazszer.

Bob Vaughan

ROMANIA

Fixtures in a tangle

THE national team's Euro 2000 preparations were thrown into confusion when a friendly against Ukraine in Bucharest on April 26 was cancelled. The Ukrainians claimed that they had agreed to play Bulgaria on that day instead.

"This has completely messed up our European Championship preparations," said Cristian Bivolaru, the FRF (FA) deputy secretary, who is lodging a protest with FIFA.

In the meantime he is seeking alternative opponents for the fixture, which falls between the game arranged with Greece, on March 29, and the Dutch, on May 27.

Bob Vaughan

MOLDOVA

Rotar shot dead

VALERI ROTAR, president of First Division club Constructorul of Chisinau, was shot dead by a group of unknown individuals as he was driving home. One of his bodyguards also was killed, while the other was taken to hospital.

In just a few years, Rotar had transformed Constructorul from a local league side into one of Moldova's leading clubs. They won the Cup in 1996 and the League the next year.

Miron Goihman

LATVIA

Astafjev sets a record

THE Cyprus tournament proved highly unsuccessful for the national team, with defeats in all three games – against Romania (2-1), Slovakia (3-1) and Lithuania (2-1). The only consolation was a record 64th cap for Vitalij Astafjev. The Bristol Rovers player overtook Eriks Peterson's previous record, set before the war.

Southampton forward Marian Pahars has been named Latvian Player of the Year.

Valery Karpushkin

● Edgaras Jankauskas, probably **LITHUANIA'S** best player at present, has moved from Club Brugge to Real Sociedad. Jankauskas opened his account with the Spanish side in the 1-1 draw at Atletico Madrid.

Gerard Jakimavicius

Pro-file Marius Niculae

Dinamo kid pushing for place with Romania

THIS has been a season of non-stop success for Romania's Marius Constantin Niculae. Not only is he a key component in a Dinamo Bucharest side streets ahead in the title race, but he has also made his mark on the international scene.

With a goal from long range on his full international debut, against Latvia in January, and scouts from several leading Western European clubs composing eulogies about him, 18-year-old Niculae can do absolutely nothing wrong at the moment.

He is a product of Dinamo's youth system – having joined at the age of 12 – and insists that he is content to continue his footballing apprenticeship in Romania with the hope of playing in the Champions League for Dinamo next season.

Interested parties such as Real Madrid, Juventus, Roma, Porto and Bayer Leverkusen may have other ideas and Dinamo simply do not have the money to offer any resistance.

They have sold top strikers Adrian Mutu and Ioan Vladoiu to Internazionale and Kickers Offenbach respectively this season, and still their finances are far from flourishing.

"Speculation about Marius moving abroad is inevitable," declares veteran Dinamo midfielder Ioan Lupescu. "He is a marvellous prospect: quick-witted, skilful and very imaginative.

"I don't think it's a good thing that youngsters are leaving Romania at an increasingly early age. It would be better if they hung around a little longer to mature. Unfortunately, this is unrealistic these days. To lose Mutu was a big blow and it will be just as painful if Niculae follows suit."

New Romania coach Emerich Jenei has stressed the need for an ageing squad to undergo major rejuvenation after Euro 2000, and in Niculae, Mutu, Rapid Bucharest keeper Bogdan Lobont, midfielders Catalin Haldan (Dinamo), Marius Maldarasanu (Rapid) and Ajax defender Cristian Chivu, there is more than enough talent to keep the pot bubbling. "You have to feel confident about the future," says Jenei. "I may decide it's too soon to pick some of these promising youngsters for Euro 2000, but sooner or later they are going to have their chance.

"The important thing is for kids like Mutu and Niculae to stay humble and build on their impressive work. I'm counting on them to develop in the right way. If they do, Romania will remain one of the best teams in Europe."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Dinamo Bucharest
Country Romania
Born May 16, 1981, in Bucharest
International debut January 2000, v Latvia
International caps 2 (1 goal)

Diaz quits

ARGENTINA

Coach shocks River Plate in 'broken promises' row

Lack of money...Ramon Diaz

RAMON DIAZ, one of the most successful coaches in the history of South American soccer, caused a sensation by resigning from his club, River Plate, only two days before the start of the closing championship.

Diaz claimed that club officials had broken their promise that they would make money available for reinforcements after selling two top players. During the mid-season break midfielder Leonardo Astrada and defender Pablo Sorin were both transferred to Brazilian clubs. But when, after several weeks, no money had been released for Diaz to spend, he decided to quit.

Diaz had been coach at River Plate for nearly five years, during which time he had won six titles but had never got on well with directors and other officials, several of whom will have been pleased to hear of his departure.

Indeed, there might have been contingency plans in place because Diaz was replaced with the minimum of delay. The new coach is America Gallego, who like Diaz is a former River player. Gallego also had acted as No 2 to Daniel Passarella during his time as coach to both the club and the Argentinian national squad.

A row has erupted over defender Fabricio Coloccini, who has moved to Milan from Boca Juniors without a transfer fee being paid. He left a few days before his 18th birthday having signed a four-and-a-half-year contract with Milan, who are paying him £57,000 a month. The move was arranged by Coloccini's father, Osvaldo – a junior coach at the club until he was fired when the row blew up – under a law giving parents the right to take decisions for their children until they come of age. But Boca have now taken the case to court to stop Coloccini playing.

Coloccini made only one – very successful – first-team appearance, earlier this season, and was being groomed to take over from central defender Walter Samuel when the latter moves to Italy in June. But he refused to sign a five-year contract for a starting salary of £21,000, which is the standard offer to juniors signing their first contract. As a result he was not taken to Boca's mid-season training camp, and left for Italy without the club's knowledge.

The Argentine FA said it will not authorise the transfer without Boca's consent.

FIFA rules state that a club receiving a junior player in this way must pay his original club compensation of £600,000 for the time and money spent in grooming him. At one time it was reported that Milan were willing to increase this to over £2million, but Boca would hear none of it, and have made this into a test case.

Still on the subject of money, Racing Club, declared bankrupt two years ago with debts of £41m, are still hanging on by permission of the courts, which continue postponing a decision. Even the FA have been trying to get creditors to reduce the debt by 40 per cent, with the balance paid in lengthy instalments. This was only partly successful.

Eric Weil

OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS

Brazil sound a warning

BRAZIL and Argentina went into the South American pre-Olympic tournament as clear favourites to take the two places in Sydney later this year. Brazil, the hosts, did it, improving as the tournament progressed, but Argentina failed.

Brazil's 24-6 goals record in seven games tells the story, but in spite of all the young stars present in this Under-23 event, there was not all that much good soccer to be seen. A lot of it was rough, and some of the refereeing was decidedly poor.

Brazil, after surprisingly being held to a 1-1 draw by Chile in their opening match and putting in unimpressive performances in 2-0 and 3-0 victories over weak Ecuador and Venezuela respectively, suddenly came to life with a 9-0 win over Colombia in the final first-round group game.

They then beat their most feared rivals, Argentina, 4-2 in the first match of the final round group of four and overcame Chile 3-1. These two results guaranteed them a place at the Olympics and their last match, against already-eliminated Uruguay, was a non-event, Brazil not exerting themselves in a 2-2 draw.

In this game, Uruguay – the only team to win all their first-round games – showed that they were able to forget the rough stuff they had produced earlier in the tournament and play some good soccer.

Brazil's youngsters improved as they went along because they were obviously fresher than Argentina's, who were mostly burnt out after a pressured first half of the season. Argentina were also hampered by a reluctance from clubs to release players for training, and injuries – notably to Walter Samuel, arguably the best central defender in the country.

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Argentina never hit form nor got going as a team. They failed in attack and the repeated team changes made by coach Jose Pekerman in his search for improvement did not help them to settle. Midfielder Juan Riquelme, perhaps the best player in the Argentine League, was dropped twice, and League top scorer Javier Saviola did not get a single goal.

Brazil were a more settled team, with Ronaldinho undoubtedly the start of the tournament as well as its top scorer with nine goals. Alex, too, was outstanding.

Brazil's 9-0 win over Colombia was the most remarkable result. The teams went into the game level on points with Chile, the goal difference of the Colombians being plus six, Brazil plus five and Chile level. As both Brazil and Colombia would have gained the top two final-round qualifying places even if losing 5-0, the Chileans packed their bags while two top players and coach Nelson Acosta headed for home to join the senior national team going on tour.

However the 9-0 result put Chile into the final round. The two players took the next plane back, and the hotel had to be hastily re-booked, though Acosta stayed with the senior team, putting his assistant, Hector Pinto, in charge. The comings and goings didn't do too much harm – in their other final-round group games Chile beat Uruguay 4-1 and Argentina 1-0 to qualify for Sydney with Brazil.

Eric Weil

Star man...Brazil's Ronaldinho

Pro-file Fabian Carini

Young goalkeeper with a huge responsibility

URUGUAY's coach, Daniel Passarella, has said that the country lacks individual talents, "the type of player who can go to a World Cup qualifier in Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil or Chile and win the game on his own".

He says that Uruguay's strength needs to come from teamwork, "because if we don't have good team spirit then it will be very hard".

The signs are, then, that the country's qualification campaign will be a backs-to-the-wall affair, in which the outstanding 20-year-old goalkeeper Fabian Carini will be fundamental.

The prospect of Uruguay missing a third consecutive World Cup is too horrible to contemplate, so there is a lot of responsibility being heaped on the young Danubio player. But those who have worked with Carini have no doubt that he is ready.

"Despite his age he has a wealth of experience," says Victor Pua, the coach who took Carini to two World Youth Cups plus last year's Copa America. "And he's so calm, he brings such serenity to the position."

Carini is well aware of the need for a sound temperament. "The goalkeeper is obviously a case apart," he says. "It's the one position where you can't afford to make a mistake. You have to accept that responsibility and strive to improve with humility and sacrifice."

The results of Carini's hard work are plain to see. Sharp reflexes and elastic diving make him well capable of the spectacular; sound positioning means that showmanship is rarely called for. Carini thrives on one-against-one situations, refusing to commit himself early and using his positioning to worry the striker into a poor shot. A slight uncertainty against the lob could be his only area of weakness.

Such prowess obviously attracts European giants, and a transfer surely is not far away. For the time being, however, Carini says: "I'm happy playing for Danubio, a club with an excellent record of producing players."

His goalkeeping idols are Colombia's Mondragon, Van der Sar of Holland and Fernando Alves, the last Uruguayan to wear the No 1 jersey at a World Cup. Carini is confident of being the next. "It's true that we have some players abroad who aren't regularly getting a game for their clubs," he says. "But we have the likes of Montero, Recoba and O'Neill. Uruguay can always count on having some good players who wear our shirt with pride. So I'm confident that we'll have a good campaign and qualify for the World Cup."

Tim Vickery

Fact file

Club Danubio
Country Uruguay
Born December 26, 1979, in Montevideo
International debut June 1999, v Paraguay
International caps 10

Changing fortune...coach Alvarez was sacked after Colombia lost 9-0 in an Olympic qualifier

Veira's unhappy reign is brought to an end

The unpopular national coach bows to pressure, writes Eric Weil

BOLIVIA

BOLIVIA's national team coach, Argentine Hector 'Bambino' Veira, was forced out of his job after his team lost all their four group matches in the pre-Olympic tournament in Brazil.

With the start of World Cup qualifying matches barely two months away, he was immediately replaced by Carlos Aragones, one of Bolivia's top players in the 1980s and coach of Blooming.

Veira, engaged to prepare a squad for the World Cup, may lament the day he opted to go with the Under-23 team to the pre-Olympic tournament to watch promising players in action.

Veira was never popular in Bolivia. The media had been pressing some time for him to be sacked before World Cup qualifying starts, claiming that his tactics were too conservative, and although he was reported to have resigned by phone from Brazil, he says that he was forced out by pressure, even from the government.

The Argentine, who had successful coaching stints with River Plate and San Lorenzo in his own country, but was less successful there in his last job with Boca Juniors, was unable to get used to the altitude of La Paz, so decided to concentrate the national squad for training in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, the lowest-lying of Bolivia's major towns.

Once there he complained about the state of pitches, the organisation of Bolivian soccer and the reluctance of clubs to release players. He did have a point. If training and playing had been concentrated in La Paz, he said, Bolivia would have had to form two teams – one to play at altitude and one for away games at sea level. Bolivia will now play all home games in La Paz.

Veira's salary of £20,000 a month was resented by Bolivians, many of whom earn less than a dollar a day. For this kind of money miracles were expected, instead of Veira's record of P24 W2 D9 L13 during his 14 months in charge.

A few days before the Argentine resigned, the Bolivian authorities fined him £4,300 for working in the country without a work visa, which would not have mattered if results had been better.

The Bolivian season was one of the first to start in South America after the summer break. The 12-team opening championship includes Mariscal Braun, back in the top division after 37 years, and Atletico Pompeya (from the Amazon region of Beni) for the first time.

The Strongest, last year's runners-up, have replaced Mario Kempes (who left at the end of last season) with another Argentine 1978 World Cup player, Ricardo Villa. Blooming wanted to lure Kempes back to Bolivia to replace new national coach Aragones, but he could not agree terms.

Jorge Wilstermann, another top-division club, had trophies and office furniture embargoed by a court as a result of one of their former coaches, Argentine Carlos Biasutto, claiming £26,000 in unpaid salaries.

COLOMBIA

Gamble costs Alvarez dear

COLOMBIAN coach Javier Alvarez made one calculated gamble...and paid with his job. He rested six first-teamers for the final first-round group game of the pre-Olympic tournament, because Colombia could afford to lose by five goals and still qualify for the deciding round-robin. However, Brazil beat them 9-0, a result that put Chile through in Colombia's place, and on the day after returning home, Alvarez was dismissed.

He has been succeeded by Millonarios boss Luis Garcia, a popular replacement who coached the national team at the 1991 Copa America.

Meanwhile, the government has been attempting to intervene in Colombian FA matters, a spokesman saying: "Changing the coach is not enough. Structural changes are required in the current organisation of soccer." But FIFA does not look kindly on government intervention and, if it came about, could suspend Colombia, forcing them to miss the next World Cup.

Medellin witnessed yet another soccer-related killing for which there seemed to be no reason. Gonzalo Perez, 52, junior teams coach of the Unidad Deportiva Club, was shot by a motorcyclist as he left the training ground.

Eric Weil

MEN IN THE NEWS

Maradona in demand

DIEGO MARADONA has received an offer from Argentine FA president, Julio Grondona, to join the national team coaching staff once he finishes his drug rehabilitation in Cuba.

Meanwhile, Maradona's private doctor, Alfredo Cahe said that the former international would need medication and psychological help all his life.

Vasco da Gama forward **EDMUNDO** was suspended for 10 days by his club after he walked out on discovering that Romario had been named captain instead of him.

US keeper **TONY MEOLA** returned to Chile, scene of his international debut, when he helped his team beat the host nation 2-1 in La Serena. Meola made his bow there in the 1987 Junior World Championship.

Eric Weil

On familiar ground...Tony Meola

Outsiders all the way

Paul Gardner reports on a tournament full of surprises

GOLD CUP

Eyes on the ball...Honduras, in blue, and Peru slug it out in the highest-scoring quarter-final of the Gold Cup

BIGGER than ever and better than ever – that's Gold Cup 2000. More teams, certainly. The first Gold Cup, in 1991, featured eight teams. This year it climbed to 12, including the three guest nations, Peru, Colombia and South Korea.

As for better – the variety of styles involved promised intriguing games. Nevertheless it kicked off with the expectation that Mexico and the hosts USA would once again meet in the Final, as they had done in 1993 and 1998.

The opening game, in Miami, was hardly inspiring. In front of 40,000 fans, the USA beat Haiti 3-0, but though the scoreline was convincing, the US performance was not. In San Diego, the Mexicans walloped Trinidad & Tobago 4-0, and things seemed to be going according to plan.

With four groups of three teams each, the first round was over in only five days. No real surprises so far – the eliminated teams were Jamaica, Guatemala, Haiti and South Korea.

The Koreans could count themselves absurdly unlucky. Costa Rica won the California-based group, but the Koreans and Canadians ended up in a dead heat (two ties each, same goal difference and goals scored) for second place.

The impasse was settled by the Football Confederation's general secretary, Chuck Blazer, tossing a coin. Korean coach Huh Jung-moo called heads, got it wrong, and his team, undefeated, went home.

The Canadians marched into the quarter-finals, where they caused all sorts of trouble for Mexico. The Canadians had their plan – utterly defensive – and stuck to it grimly. The Mexicans did not play well. Result: 1-1 after 90 minutes, with Canada's Richard Hastings scoring the golden goal after two minutes of overtime.

Hastings was becoming accustomed to upsets. He had flown in from Scotland to join the Canadian team right after his club, Inverness Caledonian Thistle, had pulled off a shattering upset by putting Celtic out of the Scottish Cup.

Mexico went home to face a crowd at the airport booing and shouting "Losers! Losers!" Coach Manuel Lapuente, who had omitted key players from his team, accepted the blame.

Hopes of 90,000-plus crowds in Los Angeles Coliseum for the final rounds went out of the window, because Mexicans make up the bulk of the fans in the Los Angeles area.

The news from Miami did not improve matters. After another unconvincing display, the USA also went out, beaten on penalties by Colombia. And Honduras – with plenty of fan support in the Los Angeles area – would not be moving to the west coast, either. They were well and truly beaten by Peru, 5-3, the game finishing with a pitch invasion by enraged Honduran fans, leading to 35 arrests.

The fourth quarter-final produced a superb game of flowing football between T&T and Costa Rica. T&T took an early lead but Paulo Wanchope equalised with a superb back-heel flick deep into injury time. Trinidad settled the tie 10 minutes into overtime when Mickey Trotman's shot was deflected past Hermidio Barantes.

The semi-final line-up had the two South American guest teams playing each other, with Canada and T&T in the other, thus guaranteeing a new name on the trophy.

Semi-finals and Final reports in World Service, starting page 35.

Deja vu at the draft

USA

Paul Gardner reports as the new Major League season approaches

Old hand...Thomas Dooley has joined MetroStars

THE FIFTH Major League soccer season gets under way on March 18. Funny thing, though – you could be forgiven for believing that the MLS season has just finished. Here we have 10 pages of statistics, newly arrived from the MLS office, with a whole bunch of results, a nice league table – DC are the winners – and pages of stuff about top scorers and assist-leaders and the like.

Championship over, DC win again? Not quite. The document refers to the cosy little pre-season tournament that MLS runs down in Florida. All 12 teams come together, all play three games, and that's what they call the MLS 2000 Spring Training Championship.

Other things go on during those two weeks in Florida. – such as the player draft. All the players available to be signed play a couple of games, the coaches watch, then the club officials sit down and pick the players they fancy according to a pre-decided order. Six rounds, with 12 in each round – a total of 72 players to be chosen.

The order in which the clubs pick should be easy to explain – if you finished last in the previous year's league, you get first pick. If you were the champions, you get to pick 12th.

But it's not that simple because the clubs can swap choices with other clubs for players, or for future considerations. So that screws up any attempt to predict the order. And as for the 'best' players going early, clubs picking late often are surprised to find that the player they want is still available.

This year, MLS came up with the SuperDraft. In past years there have been two drafts – one for college players, one for non-college players. Too confusing; so this year the two were combined.

By far the worst team in MLS last season were the New York/New Jersey MetroStars. And having earnt their pole position in the draft picks, they refused to be tempted by various player deals.

There have been changes at the Metros, you understand. General manager Charlie Stillitano, who had presided over four years of tragi-comic ineptitude, and coach Bora Milutinovic have both gone. So new GM Nick Sakiewicz and new coach Octavio Zambrano did the draft picking. And they caused a gasp of surprise when, as their priceless No 1 pick, they chose defender Steve Shak – a 22-year-old from University College, Los Angeles. It was generally thought that Nick Garcia of Indiana University was the best college defender, and, indeed, the Kansas City Wizards, picking second, must have found it difficult to credit their luck as they snapped him up.

Nine of the 12 first choices were college players, one of the other three, significantly, a high school player, 16-year-old Bobby Convey. That he should be chosen so early, ahead of 60 older players, was dramatic confirmation of what MLS coaches know but do not like to talk about: the talent coming out of the colleges is very limited.

This is deja vu stuff – exactly what started to happen in the North American Soccer League drafts back in the early 1980s. When MLS began operations in 1996, it was felt that one of the advantages over the old NASL was that the talent pool provided by the colleges was so much stronger. That notion is proving somewhat optimistic.

It is no surprise that DC United should make public acknowledgment of the fact by drafting a high school player. For four years DC have been the League's most adroitly-run club. They are always likely to see the future more clearly than the others.

The reborn MetroStars have hardly been indulging in picking youngsters. To play alongside the 38-year-old Lothar Matthaus, they have signed another 38-year-old German, Thomas Dooley, from Columbus Crew (who were very keen to unload him).

Sakiewicz praised Dooley's leadership, professionalism and experience. Dooley then scored a goal in his first training game, and was sent off in the second. He was also one of three MetroStars players in the top seven most frequent foulers from the spring championship.

Even so, the team have reason to be satisfied with their performance in Florida, having finished with the second-best record. They lost to DC United on penalty kicks, a first for MLS. The new season sees the end of the infamous shoot-out. In 2000, regular-season games tied at 90 minutes will go to two five-minute golden-goal overtime periods. If there is no score, the game goes into the records as a tie. When play-off time comes around next September, drawn games will be decided by penalties taken after the 10 minutes of overtime.

MEXICO

Surprises at every turn

THE MEXICAN Summer League has produced plenty of unexpected results. For example, powerful America lost to modest Atletico Celaya and Guadalajara, despite Cuauhtemoc Blanco's good scoring form. Eternal favourites Atlas conceded eight goals in their first two matches, and then beat Toros Neza 6-1.

Only Toluca, Santos and Guadalajara began with any sign of consistency. After five games Toluca (with one defeat) have scored 16 goals while Guadalajara and Santos were the only two undefeated teams.

On the international front, Mexico went to the Carlsberg Cup in Hong Kong and the Gold Cup in the US with a combination of young and veteran players. There is a noticeable improvement in the integration of the young alongside Suarez, Luis Hernandez, Palencia, Almaguer, etc.

As coach Manuel Lapuente explained: "Our aim is to qualify for the 2002 World Cup and even though we take the international tournaments and the Olympic Games very seriously, they are part of a long-term preparation." Torrado, Marquez Ortiz, Sanchez Hierro, Carmona, Mora, and Christian Martinez head a list of newcomers with great promise.

Carlos Ramirez

On target...Cuauhtemoc Blanco

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Reysol step up the challenge

JAPAN

JUBILO IWATA, the defending J.League champions, will be tested early with three games against leading challengers to start the 2000 season, beginning at home to Kashiwa Reysol on March 11.

Reysol, third in last year's overall standings and winners of the 1999 League Cup, have stepped up their challenge by signing Park Kun-ha and Drakulic Sasa, who led Suwon Bluewings to last year's South Korean title.

Jubilo then face a testing trip to Nagoya Grampus Eight, who swept to 10 straight League wins at the end of last season and carried on with five more to win the Emperor's Cup. Grampus have lost only once under former Antlers manager Joao Carlos, against Reysol in the League Cup.

Nagoya will miss Brazilian defender Carlos Alexandre Torres, transferred to Vasco da Gama, but have found a replacement in Romildo Santos Roza from Uniao Bandeirante.

For their third game, Jubilo entertain Yokohama F Marinos, under new manager Ossie Ardiles.

The big moves at Marinos so far have both been outwards, striker Shoji Jo going to Valladolid and defender Masami Ihara to Jubilo, but some major new signings appear to be in the pipeline.

The 1998 champions, Kashima Antlers, also have a big match on the opening day, against Grampus at the National stadium. Former Brazil World Cup midfielder Toninho Cerezo takes over on the Kashima bench from Zico, who carries on as technical director – and has achieved one of his ambitions by signing Bebeto, now 36.

Bebeto was released by Mexican club Toros Neza in November, but his signing was delayed by a dispute over alleged unpaid salary.

Cerezo Osaka have lost Hwang Sun-hong, the League's top scorer last season. He has returned to South Korea, joining Suwon Bluewings. Cerezo's new foreigner is another South Korean, 25-times capped Yoon Jung-hwang.

Relegated Urawa Reds have surprisingly kept most of their squad, including Shinji Ono, the midfield star of the Under-20 and Olympic teams.

Veteran national team striker Masahiro Fukuda and World Cup striker Masayuki Okano also remain, as does Yugoslavia midfielder Zeljko Petrovic.

Bellmare Hiratsuka, relegated with Reds, have reverted to a previous name, Shonan Bellmare, and to a former player, at least on the backs of their shirts.

Major sponsor Fujita has withdrawn but Roma midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata, who joined Bellmare from high school, has made the munificent gesture of becoming a partial sponsor.

The Bellmare shirts are now emblazoned with his home page address, Nakata.net (which has an English version).

Mike Plastow & Michi Ishijima

Old pals reunion...Bebeto

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ASIAN CUP

Goal glut highlights growing divide

THE manner in which China, Japan and Kuwait became the latest nations to qualify for the finals of the Asian Cup in Lebanon made headlines – for the wrong reasons.

All three recorded huge wins, sparking a debate over whether the AFC should restructure the qualifying tournament and hold an extra preliminary round to weed out the weakest teams.

Kuwait had the biggest win so far, 20-0 over Asian Cup debutants Bhutan, while China – watched by new coach Bora Milutinovic – beat Guam 19-0. By comparison, Japan's 9-0 win over Brunei was modest.

"Our priority is to give every one of our member nations the chance to compete and improve their football," said AFC general secretary Dato Peter Velappan. "Clearly, such one-sided matches are unwanted. We have such a huge variation in standards across the continent that this is an ongoing problem.

"In the 1960s and 70s Japan used to lose by 10 goals. The only way they have got where they are now, at the top of the Asian game, is by learning from those defeats. Guam, for instance, are very philosophical. They know they have to lose in order to win."

Michael Church

ASIAN CLUB COMPETITIONS

Al Hilal and Pirouzi reach semi-finals

AL HILAL of Saudi Arabia became the first club to qualify for the semi-finals of the Asian Club Championship when they finished top of the western quarter-final group in Riyadh.

Wins over Irtysh Pavlodar of Kazakhstan and Iraq's Police Club made their final group game against Pirouzi a formality.

But the Iranians needed a point to guarantee qualification after Police Club defeated Irtysh in the penultimate game of the series. Pirouzi just managed to do enough to draw against an Al Hilal side who refused to relax.

In the Cup-winners Cup, holders Al Ittihad of Saudi Arabia were knocked out by Iraqi club Al Zawra 2-1 on aggregate. With sanctions against Iraq continuing, the AFC ordered that both games be played at neutral venues.

The first, adjudged to be Al Ittihad's home game, was played in Doha, Qatar, with the Iraqis winning 2-1. The second leg was drawn 0-0 in Amman, Jordan.

Saudi Arabia, whose clubs have won the last three cups, still have a representative – Al Ahly trounced Navbahkor of Uzbekistan 6-1 in the first leg of their quarter-final.

In the eastern side of the draw, Bangkok Bank reached the semi-finals of an Asian competition for the first time when they came back from a 3-2 deficit in the first leg against South China of Hong Kong. They won 3-0 in Bangkok and now face Shimizu S-Pulse of Japan or South Korea's Anyang Cheetahs.

Michael Church

ROUND-UP

Al Qadissiyyah take title

KUWAIT's Al Qadissiyyah hosted and won the Gulf Co-operation Club Championship for the first time, ending their five-match campaign with 13 points out of 15. Favourites Al Hilal of Riyadh were second, two points behind, after being surprisingly held 0-0 by Qatar's Al Ittihad in a decisive match.

SAUDI ARABIA: Al Ahly were the first side to qualify for the title play-off, with a 5-0 defeat of Al Raed. Al Nassr, Al Shabab and defending champions Al Ittihad are likely to take the remaining places.

SYRIA: The national team beat North Korea 5-1 in a friendly in Damascus. The match served as a rehearsal for the Syrians before the qualifiers for the Asian Cup, in which they are drawn against Iran, Bahrain and the Maldives.

INDIA will play **BANGLADESH** in a friendly at Aston Villa on July 30. The match is being staged by a Worcestershire-based marketing firm.

LEBANON: Runaway leaders Al Nijmeh lost for the first time after 18 weeks, 2-1 away to fourth-placed Al Tadamon Tyr. But they are still five points clear.

MALAYSIA: The Merdeka tournament is to be staged again in October, after a three-year break. The FA will invite representative teams to take part in what was once the country's biggest soccer event.

Azam Mahmood & Mohamed Chbaro

Pro-file Karim Bagheri

Iranian star eager to try his luck in England

SOME would see a return to the Middle East as a backward step for a player who is trying to forge a career in Europe, but Iranian international midfielder Karim Bagheri believes he needed a change before taking a tilt at fulfilling his greatest ambition – a contract with an English Premier League club.

Bagheri, a vital member of Iran's World Cup squad and who scored one of the goals in Australia that enabled his nation to qualify for France 98, recently returned to the Gulf after a difficult two-and-a-half years with Bundesliga side Arminia Bielefeld.

"My wife could not get used to the way of life and that caused us problems," says Bagheri. "We decided to go back to Iran, analyse the situation in this part of the world and then start again. Initially that will be the target. I have signed a short-term contract with Al Nasr and while I'm here I'll be looking at going back to play in Europe."

Bagheri returned briefly to Iranian side Pirouzi, who sold him to Bielefeld in June 1997, only for him to be loaned out to the Emirates club for four months after discovering that he was ineligible for Pirouzi's Asian Club Championship campaign. With two goals in his second game for his new club, Bagheri's new career has started well. But he does not plan on staying in the region for too long.

"I'm a keen follower of English football," he says. "Even before I went to play in Germany I was interested in playing in England. I had thought about trying my luck there for a long time but I ended up with Bielefeld, and now I'm in the Gulf. But I hope to go to somewhere like England in the future."

Bagheri had a tough time in Germany, with international commitments, injury and relegation all combining to make his stint in the Bundesliga less than memorable.
A reluctance by successive coaches to play him in his favoured central midfield role also contributed to his dissatisfaction on the pitch.

"I'm now back in top form after coming back from Europe," he says. "I learnt a lot of discipline in Germany. Time-keeping was very exact, training was very precise – everything was recorded, everything written down. Now I'm using that experience in my daily life in the Gulf."

Michael Church

Fact file

Club Al Nasr (UAE)
Country Iran
Age 25
Previous clubs Pirouzi, Arminia Bielefeld (Ger)
International caps 51

Nasser stays in charge

Mark Gleeson rounds up the news from across the continent

ALGERIA have retained coach Nasser Sandjak for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers against the Cape Verde Islands. It was reported earlier that the France-born coach had been fired after Algeria's quarter-final elimination from the African Nations Cup finals in Ghana and Nigeria, but an extension of his contract has now been announced by the federation.

Elsewhere in **NORTH AFRICA**, veteran **TUNISIAN** striker Faouzi Rouissi has gone to Greuther Furth in the German Second Division, from Club Africain of Tunis. This is the second spell in Europe for the former international, who was left out of the Nations Cup squad. He previously had two seasons in France but failed to impress.

Forward Hossam Hassan's troubled spell at Al Ahly in Cairo is over. The veteran **EGYPTIAN** has moved to Al Ain in the United Arab Emirates as a replacement for Abedi Pele, the former Ghana captain and three-times African Footballer of the Year, who has retired.

Germany bound...Faouzi Rouissi

SOUTHERN AFRICA

CARLOS ALHINHO has been appointed as coach of **ANGOLA**, returning to the post he lost after the 1996 African Nations Cup. The former Portuguese international was born in the Cape Verde Islands and holds the unusual distinction of having played for all three of Portugal's top clubs – Benfica, Porto and Sporting Lisbon.

Yugoslav Vesselin Jelusic has been fired from his post as Under-23 coach after Angola lost 3-2 to Zimbabwe in a qualifying match for the Sydney Olympics.

The flooding in **MOZAMBIQUE** in February has led Costa do Sol to withdraw from the domestic championship. The waters have destroyed their ground and clubhouse.

ZAMBIA have named George Mungwa as their new national team coach to replace Ben Bamfuchile, sacked after the team's failure to reach the Nations Cup quarter-finals in Nigeria. This is a second spell in charge for Mungwa, who took Zambia to the regional Cosafa Castle Cup trophy in 1997. He was coach for 15 matches from April to November 1997, winning eight of them before being replaced by German Burkhard Ziese ahead of the 1998 African Nations Cup finals in Burkina Faso.

Former South African national coach Clive Barker is to take charge of **SWAZI** club Mbabane Highlanders for only two matches – when they face Kaizer Chiefs of Johannesburg in the first round of the CAF Cup.

WEST AFRICA

RENE TAELMAN, the Belgian coach in charge of **BURKINA FASO** at the Nations Cup, was given the sack soon after the tournament. His place is taken by Sidiki Diarra and Joseph Kabore, previously coaches of club sides USFA and Etoile Filante.

The Amilcar Cabral Cup, scheduled to take place in the **CAPE VERDE ISLANDS** late last year, will now be held from April 27 to May 14. Heavy rain postponed the renovation of the stadium in Praia, thereby putting the eight-nation tournament on hold.

The Cabral Cup is traditionally contested by countries from Zone II of Africa's regional soccer set-up and was last played in Gambia two years ago, when Mali won.

Group A games (the hosts, Gambia, Sierra Leone and Senegal) will take place in Praia; Group B games (Mali, Guinea, Mauritania and Guinea-Bissau) in Mindelo.

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON Under-23 striker Albert Meyong Ze, whose goals helped his country win the All-Africa Games gold medal last year, is to move from Ravenna in Italy to struggling Vitoria Setubal in Portugal.

EAST AFRICA

ZANZIBAR have taken over as hosts of the upcoming East and Central African Club Championship from Sudan. Eleven teams are scheduled to take part in the championship, including holders Young Africans of Tanzania, who won the last edition in Uganda in January 1999.

Morocco start at the bottom

AFRICA's leading soccer nations will have to wait until mid-year to know who they will meet in the qualifiers for the next Nations Cup finals, but Morocco, the continent's top-ranked country last year, have to go through the preliminary round.

Algeria, Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia have been exempted from playing in the preliminary knockout round, which will be played over two legs in July.

Morocco, who failed to reach the quarter-finals of this year's Nations Cup and as a consequence sacked their coach, Henri Michel, will have to get past lowly Guinea-Bissau before going into the draw for the group phase of the qualifiers.

A record entry of 51 for the qualifiers for Mali 2002 led to a modification of the traditional draw. A total of 21 preliminary round ties was announced by the Confederation of African Football, with the winners going into a new draw, along with the seven exempted countries, to be held in Cairo in July.

The 28 countries will be divided into seven groups of four, to be played on a round-robin basis starting in September.

The top two finishers in each group will qualify for the 2002 finals, along with host nation Mali and the holders, Cameroon.

Morocco, who were the leading African country in the FIFA rankings at the end of last year, are one of five former Nations Cup winners who have to play in the preliminary round.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, twice winners, have been drawn against the Central African Republic, while 1992 winners Ivory Coast meet Niger.

The first legs of the preliminary round matches are to be played on the weekend of July 1-2, with the return a fortnight later.

See World Service, starting page 35, for the full preliminary round draw.

Wolves taste life at the top

AUSTRALIA

UNFASHIONABLE provincials Wollongong Wolves emerged as unlikely challengers to long-time leaders Sydney Olympic in the NSL.

Wolves, who regularly qualify for the end-of-season play-offs but have never reached a Grand Final, are best known for their prudent financial management. Now, however, they have had a heady spell at the top of the table – a position they have not occupied since 1989.

None of the Wolves is a household name; the one with the highest profile is Esala Masi, the most gifted player to come out of Fijian soccer for many years. He is the only established international on Wolves' books, although midfielder Matthew Horsley and forward Scott Chipperfield have just been drafted into the Australian senior squad.

Olympic now have regained their lead, but the hard-working and well-organised Wolves cannot be discounted in a season that has produced no outstanding sides.

Paul Moon

Aussie call-up...Matthew Horsley (right) of Wollongong Wolves

NEW ZEALAND

Grey days for All Whites

NEW ZEALAND's national side, the All Whites, narrowly escaped a whitewash during a rare spate of activity – four full internationals within eight days. The Kiwis were beaten by both the hosts and Jamaica in a quadrangular tournament at Guangzhou, China.

They then returned to Auckland for their first home encounter in almost two years and lost to South Korea. All three defeats were by a single goal.

The losing streak, extending to seven matches, ended when they held the Koreans to a draw in Palmerston North.

The results, following New Zealand's credible displays at the Confederations Cup, were disappointing, even though the team played sufficiently well to suggest inexperience at international level is their biggest problem.

Due to financial constraints, however, it is unlikely that the New Zealand FA will ever be able to offer the extensive programme the team need.

Paul Moon

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ACROSS

1 Hoftun's Rosenborg and Norway defensive partner (8)
6 Benin international who joined Sion from Kadji in Cameroon (4)
7 Czech midfield maestro in Serie A with Lazio (6)
9 Itinerant defender; with Kansas when representing Nigeria at France 98 (6)
10 Former Arsenal and Juve Irishman who followed McNeill as Celtic boss (5)
11 Salernitana coach sacked and reinstated last season (5)
14 Real Madrid and Spain iron man from Malaga (6)
16 Bordeaux midfielder recently called into the France squad (6)
17 French full-back currently with Celtic (4)
18 Belgian top division side who play at the Achter de Kazerne stadium (8)

DOWN

2 Injury-plagued Danish defender who has played for West Ham and Celtic (6)
3 Young Juventus centre-back snapped up from Hajduk Split (5)
4 Lokeren's Slovenian goalkeeper (9)
5 Widzew boss who top-scored for Poland at the 1974 World Cup finals (4)
8 Van Gaal's No 2 appointed to Alkmaar as Van Hanegem's successor (3, 3, 3)
12 Lithuanian keeper contracted to Germany's Duisburg (6)
13 Partizan midfield man who joined the Roma squad (5)
15 Poland star in Holland with Roda, Feyenoord and now PSV (4)

FEBRUARY SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Scholl, 3 Oval, 7 Glassmann, 9 Ince, 10 Simoni, 12 Oulare, 13 Amor, 16 Tavarelli, 17 Anic, 18 Hyypia.
DOWN: 1 Sogli, 2 Last, 4 Van Bommel, 5 Lippi, 6 Banin, 8 Ancelotti, 11 Bravo, 12 Oruma, 14 Reina, 15 Frey.

FEBRUARY WINNERS

1st prize: Christopher Dickson, East Kilbride, Scotland.
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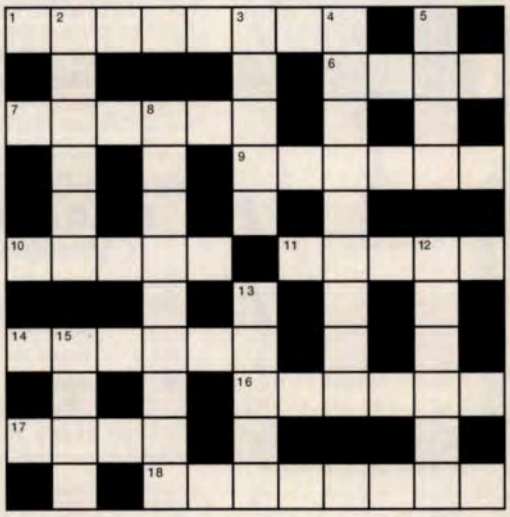

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Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

'There has long been a hard and nasty core of neo-Fascists among Lazio fans, and now there is a sinister infiltration of middle-aged thugs'

Banners bring shame

Fascist protest...Lazio fans parade their "honour to Arkan" banner

THE recent furore in Italy over the banners held up in the Stadio Olimpico by Lazio fans on the *Curva Nord* is somewhat belated. At the home game against Bari, one banner showed a picture of Benito Mussolini, gone but alas not forgotten. The other, absurdly and nihilistically, paid "honour to Arkan", the bank robber, mass murderer and racketeer recently shot dead in Belgrade.

Suggestions came from national and football authorities that, in future, games would be stopped for 45 minutes while such banners were seized, the result being given 2-0 to the away team. Roll on the riots!

Yet a few weeks before the Arkan absurdity, a viciously anti-semitic banner was held up at the Olimpico during the derby game, to be met immediately, and plainly by arrangement, with the display of a banner on the *Curva Sud* by Roma fans, supporting those brutal sentiments. With no such official responses.

For a long time now there has been a hard and nasty core of neo-Fascists among Lazio fans, and now there is a sinister infiltration of middle-aged thugs, seeking to manipulate the younger hooligans. On the Channel 4 programme *Gazzetta Football Italia* the camera zoomed in on a picture of Mussolini and a swastika on the wall of the Lazio fan club HQ. But the presenter cautiously made nothing of it.

Getting the needless needle

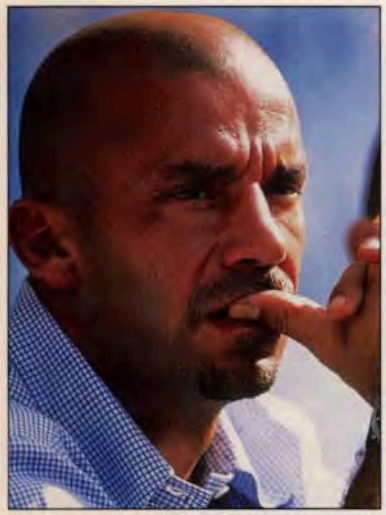
THERE has been much furore lately over the deplorable practice of injecting injured players with cortisone and putting them back on the field.

Bobby Robson insists that he never obliged any of his men to have such injections at Ipswich. Kevin Beattie, an Ipswich star in those days, says he was given such an injection to play in a Cup Final, when severely injured.

Mike Channon and Mike England are among former stars who tell us that they are now seriously incapacitated as a result of such treatment.

I believe them, and have long been appalled by the reckless, irresponsible and ultimately harmful use of cortisone injections for such short-term purposes. As we all know, the whole 'object' of pain is to warn the body that something is wrong. Cortisone injections perpetuate and exacerbate whatever that may be.

What surprises me is that the Professional Footballers Association has not long since made this a crusade. Together with the prevalence of too much football, it constitutes one of the greatest threats to modern players, however much they may now earn.



Playing again...Chelsea's Gianluca Vialli

Why Vialli feels frustrated

GIANLUCA VIALLI, having hung up his boots at the end of last season, decided to take them down again, which was splendid news.

At 35, he surely has a great deal still to offer as a player, as indeed he proved last season. Had he gone on playing earlier this season, I imagine Chelsea would have scored substantially more goals.

One wonders whether Vialli still feels, for all his fame, a lurking sense of frustration. He undoubtedly has been one of the finest European, let alone Italian, strikers of his era, but disappointments have been surprisingly frequent. Not least at World Cups.

Thus in 1986 in Mexico he played in all Italy's games, but only as a substitute. In 1990, he began impressively, but then was injured. Roberto Baggio came in to flourish, and there was violent criticism when the team's manager, Azeglio Vicini, preferred Vialli to Baggio in the semi-final in Naples. Vialli had a poor game, was eventually substituted, and Argentina prevailed on penalties.

In 1994 Vialli, to his outrage, did not even make the squad. He publicly called coach Arrigo Sacchi and the pompous president of the FIGC, Antonio Matarrese, "the two most unpopular men in Italy".

The World Cup over, it seemed that Vialli would return to the *azzurri*, only for Sacchi to blurt out that the reason he had dropped Vialli was because a poll among his players, then largely from Milan, was hostile.

Wrong this time, Motson

AS A very small boy, I remember getting a free gift in one of those weeklies, probably *The Skipper*. This was a small booklet, printed in colour, dealing with football, and one of its illustrated quiz questions was: "If a player puts up his hands to protect his face from the ball, is it a foul?" The answer was yes, and I've remembered it ever since.

I was therefore greatly surprised at my friend John Motson, usually the most punctilious of commentators, saying, when Aston Villa's Gareth Barry plainly handled a shot from Chris Sutton of Chelsea, that Barry could argue he was only trying to protect himself. Motson repeated the comment when the incident – and Sutton's chagrin – were clearly shown in slow motion.

It should of course have been a penalty but the presiding studio trio, Gary Lineker, Trevor Brooking and Alan Hansen, let Motson off the hook; they did not discuss the matter. Tactful.

A tale of transfer tears

BERT SPROSTON, who died in January well into his eighties, was one of the finest defenders in Britain. He won 11 England caps at right-back, initially with Leeds, then briefly at Tottenham, but chiefly with Manchester City. In season 1937-38 he reigned supreme in the international side.

The story was told, apocryphally or otherwise, that when Sproston, a Cheshire man from Sandbach, was sold to Spurs, he cried himself to sleep until they transferred him back up north.

During the war when he was in the army, Sproston turned out as a guest for Millwall, even operating as an inside-right. By then his international career was over, but he went on playing for Manchester City until 1949-50.

He had a droll sense of humour. Frank Swift, Manchester City's celebrated goalkeeper, told of a remarkable FA Cup tie in 1946 when City, having beaten Bradford Park Avenue 3-1 away in the first leg of the then (for the only time) two-legged ties, lost 8-2 in the return at Maine Road.

Four of the Bradford goals went to AH (Jackie) Gibbons, initially an amateur centre-forward with Spurs when he was serving in the RAF. When he had banged in the seventh, Sproston said: "Why don't you go away, sonny boy? There's plenty of room to play at the other end."

Best in first place

BEST or Beckham? Best or Cantona? While we're about it, how about Beckham or Batistuta? In the final choice of world footballer of the year, organised by FIFA, the collective coaches of the game put David Beckham second, well ahead of the Argentinian, which made me reflect again that coaches and managers do not understand football.

George Best was hardly tactful or modest to ridicule the fact that he came second behind Eric Cantona as Manchester United's supposed Player of the Century (what about Billy Meredith, for that matter?), still less to ridicule poor Beckham, but in each case he surely had a point.

Polls such as the United one are valueless; those who take part in them seem mostly johnny-come-latelys who did not even see Best in his pomp and prime. Best has declared that he doesn't think Beckham is a great player, which seems to me undeniable, going on to opine: "He can't kick with his left foot [Puskas could not kick with his right!], he doesn't score many goals, he can't head and he can't tackle." This last rebuke seems irrelevant. Best, though, might have added that Beckham also lacks pace. Best had it in spades.

A strange kind of collective delusion appears to have overcome the world of football, elevating Beckham to second spot in Europe and the world. As for Cantona, he was beyond doubt a far more gifted player than Beckham, but did not remotely achieve for United what Best achieved, nor was he anything like as versatile.

Defeat at the polls...George Best

Best was arguably the finest post-war player Britain has produced. But he should be more modest.

From the archives...

April 1983

MICHEL PLATINI was "man of the moment" in European football 17 years ago, and as such a worthy subject for the front cover. He had just created all the goals in France's 3-0 friendly win over Portugal, hit form for Juventus in Serie A – on the way to finishing League top scorer in 1982-83 – and shown "breathtaking skill" in Juve's 5-2 outclassing of Aston Villa in the European Cup quarter-finals.

That victory, coupled with Widzew Lodz's 4-3 win over Liverpool in the same round, signalled the end of England's six-year grip on Europe's top club prize.

It was not just the result that went against Liverpool; on their visit to Poland for the first leg their plane very nearly crashed as it attempted to land at Warsaw airport.

This incident brought to light the fact that the squad was insured for what Richard Bott described as "a staggering £10million". This figure was "based on the board's assessment of the players' transfer-market value when the policy was taken out last year. It was admitted that this figure would probably be reduced now the bottom had fallen out of the transfer market."

This latter development was referred to on another page by former Manchester United manager Tommy Docherty. Reflecting on the British game, he said:

"Gates are tumbling, the public are disenchanted and yet still the people in the game do nothing to improve the quality or image of football ...At least fees [for players] have now come down but wages must do also. When Manchester United and Liverpool are losing at the gate, what chance have the rest?"

The problems were on the pitch in Argentina, as illustrated by dramatic pictures from a regional game of an assault on a referee by a goalkeeper.

There was also trouble in Greece, where Rhodes had three players sent off and two carried off in a match against AEK Athens. The referee had no choice but to stop the game since Rhodes were left with fewer than the minimum requirement of seven players.

Corinthians and Brazil captain Socrates was left with $20,000 less after that sum, in cash, was stolen from his home. "Socrates had said recently that he would play only another year or two before retiring," wrote Keir Radnedge. "Now it looks as if he might have to stick at kicking a ball around for a bit longer."

The goalkeeper attacks the referee for sending off a team-mate and throws him to the ground before the police reach the scene. This took place in a match in the province of Buenos Aires for the regional tournament to qualify for the national championship. The match was suspended.

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